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page eighteen

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page sixteen

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MARTLET

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you have to believe

that mercy has

a different take on dec. 6

its own country and

see page three

that it's round

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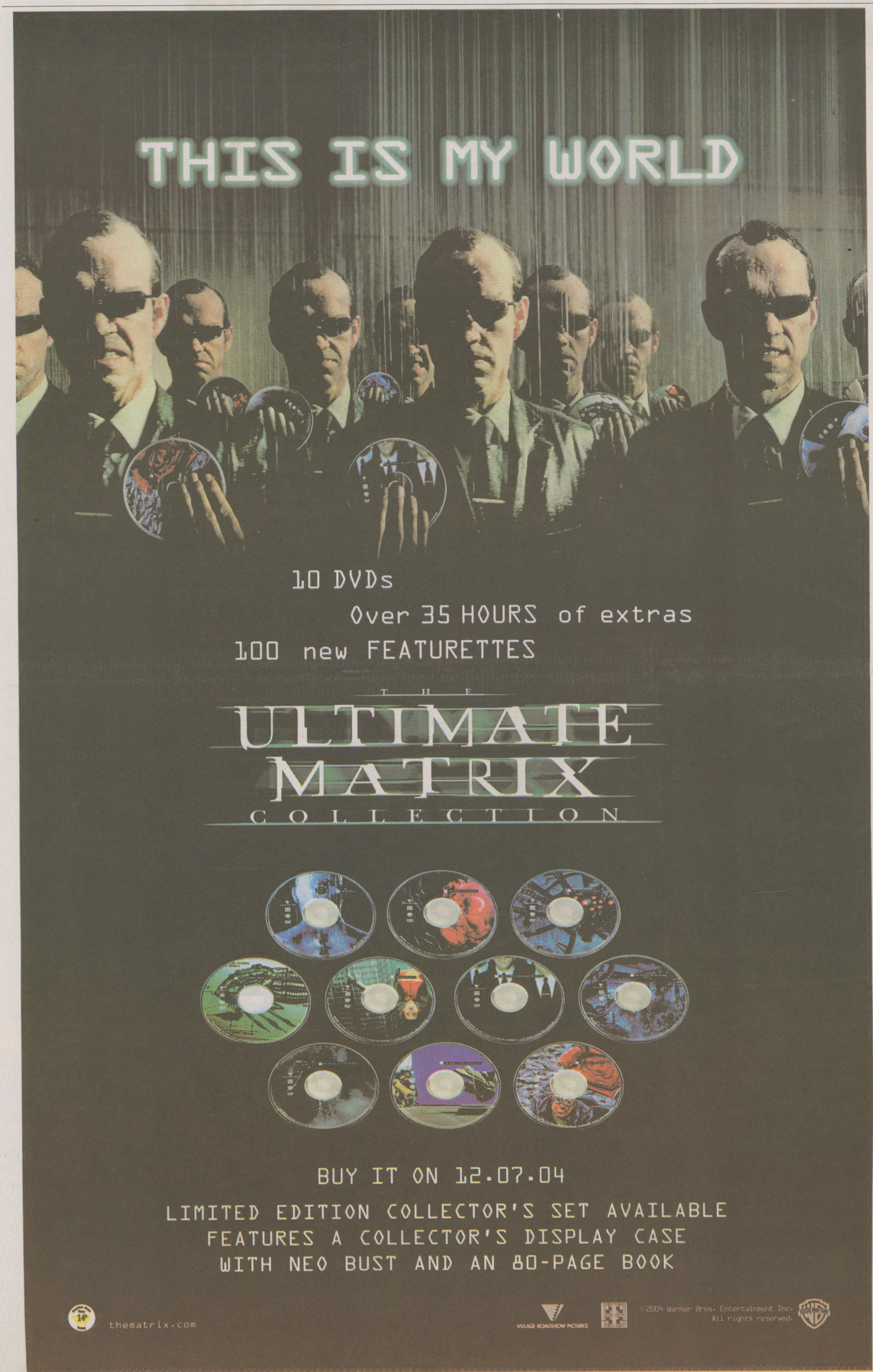
above it all

B. BRADY PHOTOS | ANI DIFRANCO, "NO (MORE) FEAR" LYRICS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Violence against women not just a memory

by Bryna Hallam

In response to criticism, the University of Victoria has revamped its memorial service for the Dec. 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Established as a day of remembrance by Parliament in 1991, this day coincides with the anniversary of the death of 14 young women who, because of their gender, were killed on Dec. 6, 1989, at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal.

According to Carly Chunick, equity researcher at UVic's Equity and Human Rights Office, this year's service, scheduled for Fri., Dec. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in front of the MacLaurin building, will focus less on the events that spurred the day of remembrance and more on current issues surrounding violence against women.

The memorial ceremony last year wasn't "very inclusive," said Chunick. "We're trying to make it as inclusive as possible but not losing sight of why we're having it."

This year's memorial service will include a number of speakers, both male and female. There is also an aboriginal speaker.

"We wanted to open it up," said Chunick. "[Violence against women is] not just a women's issue."

UVic's Equity Office hopes that this year's changes will encourage people to come to the ceremony. "The university really wants to encourage everyone to go," said Chunick. She also wants to remind students that classes are cancelled during the memorial to make it easier for people to attend.

SEAN PATRICK SULLIVAN PHOTO

Amalija Kopac and Lisanne Prince, both of the Engineering Student Society, will be handing out white ribbons for Friday's service.

UVic hasn't been the only target of criticism. Recent years have seen a number of groups accuse the provincial government of hypocrisy. The Victoria Status of Women Action Group (SWAG) has boycotted the Dec. 6 events for the past three years and has demonstrated against the vigils.

Two years ago in B.C., Lynn Stevens, the Minister for Women's Equality, issued a message declaring that the deaths of the women in Montreal "became a catalyst for ongoing work to overcome violence against women. . . . They moved us to stand up and say that violence against women—or anyone—is simply not acceptable."

But Cindy L'Hirondelle, co-ordinator of SWAG, said the B.C. Liberal government is not working to end violence against women.

"It feels completely hypocritical for Lynn Stevens to pretend that she cares about women," L'Hirondelle told *the Martlet* last year.

In March of this year, funding to all of the province's women's centres was cut, leaving them to fend for themselves.

The cuts have led to widespread criticism, even from the United Nations. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women said in their regular report on the status of women in Canada that "the Committee is concerned about a number of recent changes in British Columbia which have a disproportionately negative impact on women, in particular Aboriginal women." As a result, British Columbia fails to meet their standards of opposing and preventing violence against women.

The report criticizes the cutbacks to legal aid and welfare assistance, the incorporation of the Ministry of Women's Equality under the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, the abolition of the Human Rights Commission, the closing of a number of courthouses and the proposed changes to the prosecution of domestic violence, as well as cuts to support programs for victims.

According to Statistics Canada, 51 per cent of all Canadian women have experienced sexual or physical violence. Close to 60 per cent of these women survived more than one violent incident.

WHAT HAPPENED

On Dec. 6, 1989, 14 engineering students were killed at the École Polytechnique in Montreal.

Marc Lépine walked into the finance department of the engineering school and shot a female clerk. He then walked into a classroom, told the students to stop what they were doing and asked the men and women to separate.

Lépine told the female students that he was against feminism. He began shooting. He killed six women in the classroom, three women in the cafeteria and four women in another room. Lépine then killed himself.

In the suicide note found on his body, Lépine stated his view that feminists had ruined his life.

"Even if the Mad Killer epithet will be attributed to me by the media, I consider myself a rational erudite," he wrote. "The feminists have always enraged me. They want to keep the advantages of women . . . while seizing for themselves those of men."

"Beyond commemorating the loss of these 14 young lives, this day represents a time to pause and reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society," reads the federal government's website. "It is also a time to have a special thought for all the women and girls who live daily with the threat of violence or who have died as a result of deliberate acts of gender-based violence. Last but not least, it is a day for communities to reflect on concrete actions that each Canadian can take to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls."

CORRECTION

Due to an erroneous press release, last week's *Martlet* incorrectly said that CIBC's $500,000 gift to UVic Career Services has earned the bank its name on a new library, and that the funds will support a career resources library.

The gift will actually support the development of the Applied Career Transitions Project, not the library. In recognition, the existing library in career services will be named the CIBC Career Resource Library.

As well, Career Services is not only for students who have graduated. The centre is for all students and recent grads involved in career decision-making and work search, whether it be part-time summer employment or post-graduation employment.

We apologize for the error.

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AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Students wait in line at the now-clean, low-hazard Munchie Bar. The outlet, which was reported "unclean" in October, is one of many UVic food outlets with health violations.

How safe is food at UVic?

by David Karp

A number of food outlets on campus have been labelled hazards by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) in the past six months, but managers say all infractions have been remedied.

Inspection reports for all food outlets in VIHA's jurisdiction can be found online.

When the VIHA inspector visited Felicita's in July, he found "improper cleaning and sanitizing," and labelled the pub a moderate hazard. The health violation was Felicita's third critical hazard since 2003—all three for problems with Felicita's glass washer. A critical hazard is "a condition that potentially could make somebody ill," said Maxine Marchenski, senior environmental health officer with VIHA.

"Food premise regulations require the use of a sanitizer in a glass washing machine," she added. "The sanitizer is required to kill bacteria and viruses because normal wash temperatures won't kill bacteria and viruses."

Dale Robertson, the Student Union Building's business operations manager, said that with the new bar manager and staff follow-up, the washer hasn't been an issue.

"Operationally, the [glass washing] machine did have some issues, but those repairs have been made," he said.

Indeed, when the health inspector returned to Felicita's Nov. 26, he found the glass washer to be operating properly, and Felicita's is now deemed a low hazard, the lowest level possible.

Felicita's is not the only food outlet on campus with a history of health violations. A Nov. 16 visit from the health inspector found dishwashing problems at IQ, the Grad Centre's café. The violation was a critical hazard.

"The temperature requirement pursuant to the regulations is about 180 degrees [Fahrenheit]," said Marchenski. "Otherwise, you just have a swarming sea of bacteria and viruses, and soap isn't lethal to them."

As a result, IQ is currently labelled as a moderate hazard. The establishment also had problems with its glass washer in 2003. Peter Lembcke, IQ's food and beverage manager, downplayed the violations, insisting, "It's been all fixed. There's nothing wrong with it actually. It's been working properly the whole time."

The University Centre cafeteria and Cadboro Commons cafeteria have had flawless health records this year. "Our mandate now for the students is best possible food, best possible service, best possible safety," said Seymour. "I think they do a really good job here."

However, B & C Food Distributors Ltd., a food supplier for UVic Food Services, the SUB, and IQ, has a less-than-flawless record. A visit from the health inspector in late September found six different health violations.

The distributor was found to have inadequate insect/rodent control, poor hygiene and activities of food handlers, food not protected, and improper sanitary facilities, among other violations. Despite this, the facility was given a low hazard rating, with the inspector noting that overall the facility was "clean, sanitary and well maintained.

Shawn Watts, B & C's Office Manager, said, "[Our facility is] very safe actually. I'm not aware of any of those [violations]." B & C had resolved some—but not all—of the problems when the health inspector followed-up a week later.

In terms of choosing suppliers, "I'm more interested in how quickly they're willing to rectify that violation," said Heather Seymour, production co-ordinator for the university's food services

Maria's, located in the Fraser building and operated by UVic Food Services, also violated health standards in September. Maria's was not properly refrigerating potentially hazardous foods. The display cooler was found to be at nine degrees Celsius, which is significantly higher than the required maximum of four degrees.

"If you have it above four degrees Celsius, you can have bacteria grow," said Marchenski. "Cool temperatures slow down the growth of bacteria—in fact, they stop it. They don't grow at refrigeration temperatures."

"Our fridges are now all on alarm systems," maintained Seymour, "so if they drop in temperature, an alarm goes off. If a cook or supervisor or manager isn't present, it goes straight through to Traffic and Security."

The campus outlets are trying to reduce the number of problems. "All of our supervisors have Foodsafe level two," said Robertson. "All of our general workers have Foodsafe level one. We have routine checks by the supervisors twice daily for temperatures on the refrigeration units, and every morning when the managers go through each of their stations they check for food quality."

Still, these precautions haven't fixed everything. The health inspector noted that parts of both the Munchie Bar and Inneraction Juice Bar in the SUB were unclean during visits in early October. Both of these hazards were considered minor and both places have a low hazard rating.

All food facilities undergo regular inspections, and VIHA's website notes that the reports only reflect conditions at the time of the visit.

Facilities that exceed the maximum acceptable level of risk can be closed by environmental health officers. Failure to address the hazards in the report can also lead to closure.

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Poster raises questions of homophobia

'Vague' poster and message characterized as hate propaganda

PROVIDED PHOTOS

This series of photos appears on AIDS awareness posters around campus. The image on the right was used in what has been called "homophobic hate propaganda."

by Megan Stewart

A UVic employee is angry over a poster she calls "homophobic hate propaganda" that appeared on campus several times last month.

My Lipton, a scientific assistant in the biology department, arrived in the Cunningham Building on Nov. 17 to see a poster taped to banners advertising the UVic Pride Collective's holiday party.

The offending poster had an arrow drawn from the Pride emblem to an image pulled from a current AIDS awareness campaign.

The campaign, unveiled this month by advertising firm Marketel, is a series of three ads depicting an intravenous drug user, a homosexual love scene and a heterosexual love scene. Each scene plays out in a graveyard where the subjects are above a gravestone that reads, "AIDS is still around. 1981– ."

The image that appeared on the offending poster shows a photocopy of the advertisement where two are men wrapped in a sheet, one bending the other over the tombstone.

In block printing above the AIDS awareness ad, someone had written, "These ads need no charity," and above that, "I wish I'd done that." An arrow runs from that page to Pride's holiday poster.

In a letter dated Nov. 19, Lipton wrote that the same poster was found three days in a row "on each of [the] three bulletin boards on the main floor of the Cunningham Building where [she] work[s] and [is] quite 'out.'" She lodged complaints with Campus Security Services (CSS) and the Pride Collective.

"Out of respect for friends that are dead or living with the disease, I just had to do something," said Lipton.

Standing in *the Martlet* newsroom, Lipton flipped through a dictionary until she reached the entry for "charity."

"Voluntary giving to those in need," she read from the Canadian Oxford Dictionary. "'Kindness, benevolence; tolerance in judging others; and love of one's fellow humans.'"

Putting the dictionary down, she said, "I know why people stay in the closet."

Branden Beatts, the Pride rep for the University of Victoria Students' Society Board of Representatives, is admittedly confused by the phrase, "These people need no charity."

"It's vague and it's very . . . vague. We understand that this message is threatening, but it's not clear what exactly is the threat."

This September, the House of Commons passed Bill C-250 and added sexual orientation to the existing hate propaganda section of Canada's Criminal Code, where race, gender and other personal characteristics are legally protected from discrimination.

Before the amendment was passed, gay rights activists from Égale Canada, a national group working for sexual and gender equality, lobbied lawmakers, stating that "hate propaganda plants the seeds for hate crimes."

Laurie Arron, Égale's director of advocacy, said that gays, lesbians and bisexuals are on the receiving end of more hate crimes than any other demographic, though the RCMP doesn't keep comprehensive statistics relating to the issue.

"[H]ate propaganda hurts people's sense of safety and causes them to hide their identity," Arron told the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee before the bill was passed. "For gays and lesbians, the harm that comes from hiding who we are is well documented. It lowers our self-esteem and leads to feelings of shame, guilt and self-hatred."

Back on campus, Beatts said he has talked to many students who expressed disgust towards the Cunningham poster. "People are really interested to know what kind of person would be so deliberately hurtful. On this campus they would be mauled if they were more openly hateful."

Becky Cory, the diversity educator at UVic's Equity and Human Rights Office, said the phrase on its own doesn't have a clear meaning. Cory says the message is discriminatory because it identifies and singles out male homosexuals as being responsible for the spread of the AIDS virus.

"It is playing on the assumption that AIDS is a part of gay male relationships," said Cory. "It's playing on a connection that is falsely established and that is long-contested within queer communities."

She added that the vagueness of the message is a sign of UVic's dedication to political correctness. "We live in a world that is not entirely open to diverse sexualities and gender," she said. "That this covert and unclear poster isn't openly homophobic is indicative to me of PC culture."

CSS chose not to comment directly, but the university's policy towards posters and banners states in Appendix A that information not "relating to cultural and community events of specific interest to the university community" may be removed, and anyone repeatedly breaching regulations "may have their poster privileges permanently revoked."

The university did not approve the offending posters.

In the name of AIDS awareness, Pride launched its own poster campaign that shows all three Marketel ads, not exclusively the homosexual scene, and that includes information about men infected with the virus.

Posted since Nov. 23, the posters say that 60 per cent of men with AIDS were infected through homosexual sex, 25 per cent through injection drug use and 15 per cent through heterosexual sex.

Worldwide, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, an estimated 37.8 million adults and 2.1 million children under the age of 15 are living with HIV/AIDS.

Dec. 1 was annual international World AIDS Day. Visit www.WorldAidsDay.org to learn about the cause and to wear a virtual red ribbon.

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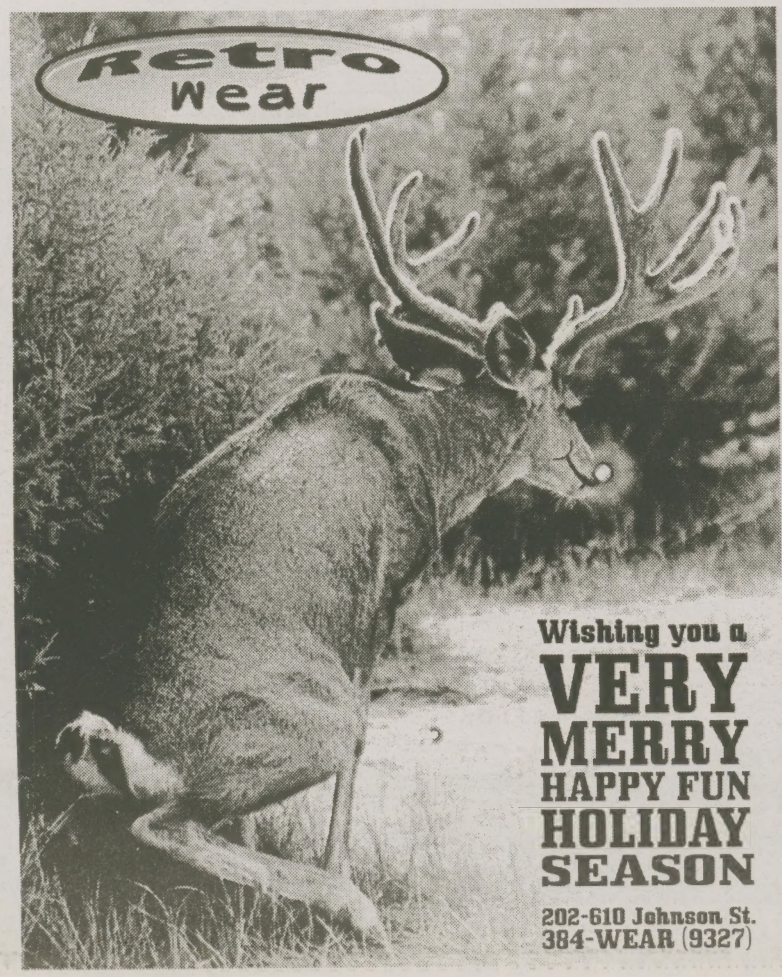

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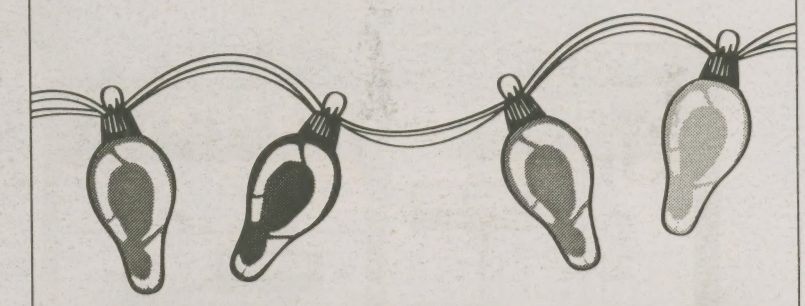

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UVic Law Centre thriving on short-term funding

by Rosie Westwood

Short-term funding continues to float a university program that provides legal aid to the underprivileged, two years after a major funding crisis shook the program's foundation.

The UVic Law Centre is a service of the faculty of law, and the only full-time program of its kind in Canada. Its clients are the low-income, under-represented people who have little place else to turn.

"There was a crisis, a real jeopardy as to where we could carry on," said assistant director Steve Perks about the 2002 government cuts that rocked the centre.

The cuts hit the Legal Services Society (LSS), which at that time provided 30 per cent of the centre's funding. As a result, the centre lost its office space and two-thirds of its staff.

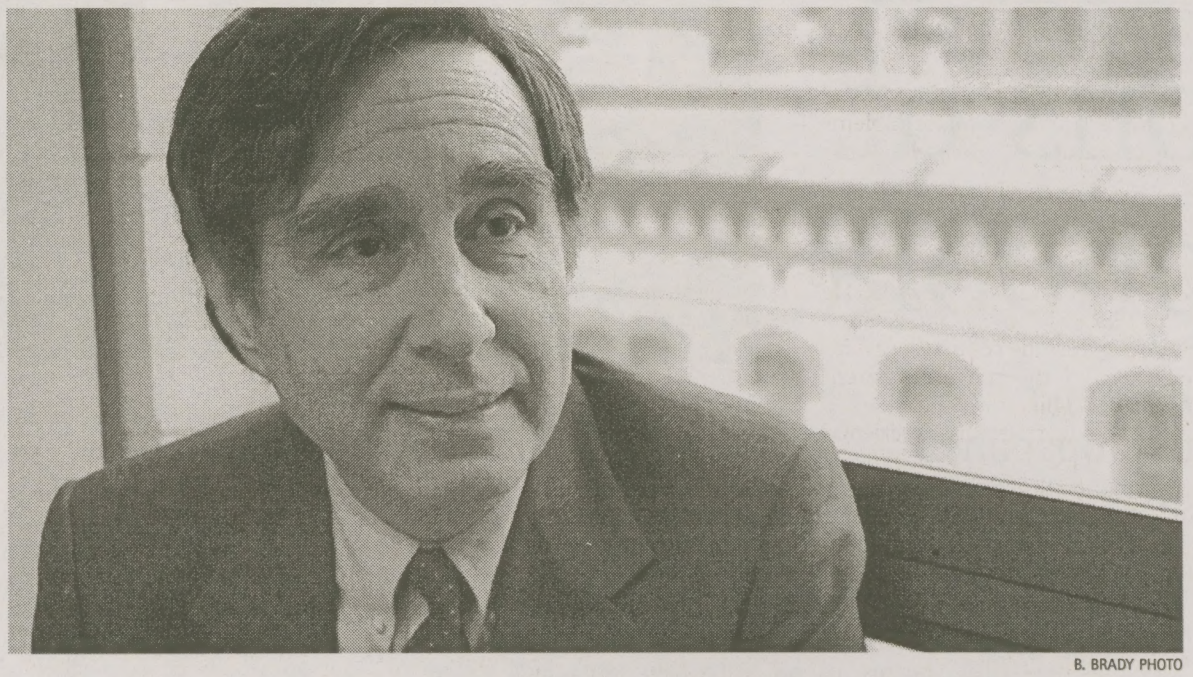
But what was a huge blow to the facility has now generated a positive result.

"It's been good," Perks said. "What was a difficult period at present has let us grow in interest and in the complexity of our files."

Back at its old location above A&B Sound in downtown Victoria, the centre has expanded into more family and human rights law as part of conditions attached to new funding.

"We're doing a very important job with human rights," said Prof. Glenn Gallins, the centre's director for 12 years.

The Law Centre is known in the community, and many clients are referrals from other agencies. It was established in 1977, soon after UVic's Law School, and is both a service to the community and a class available to law students.



B. BRADY PHOTO

Lawyer Glenn Gallins sits in the UVic Law Centre's office in downtown Victoria. Gallins supervises UVic law students as they practise law, helping Victoria's disadvantaged with their legal woes.

Both the Law Centre and the LSS are free for clients. And while the LSS covers many areas of law, it also leaves many cases and many people out.

That's where the Law Centre comes in. It practises a broad range of law supplementary to the LSS, including less serious criminal matters, family law, human rights law, social systems benefit appeals, tenancy arbitrations and small claims.

The centre's two main objectives are to provide legal education and to provide legal services to clients who otherwise can't afford them. It operates all year, and every four months, 14 students from the faculty of law learn and work at the Law Centre Clinical Program.

"We're the most unique law firm in the country," said Gallins. "The major part of our staff turns over three times a year. Nobody functions like that."

The three lawyers on staff—Gallins, Perks and Tybring Hemphill—supervise the students. The centre operates as a third-year course, equivalent to five classes, and students are issued either a pass or fail grade. Upon admittance, students often take up to 35 clients.

The centre maximizes practical experience for its students by operating largely as a typical law firm. Due to temporary licences issued by the Law Society, the students are allowed to act like lawyers.

Jennifer Smith, a third-year law student and current staff member, highly recommends the program. She feels that the centre provides an "amazing opportunity" for prospective lawyers. Smith said it help students to discover what they don't want to do as much as what they want to do.

The diversity of the centre pushes students to experience areas of law they may not have thought were interesting.

"It's a good way to explore other options," said Smith.

And while she describes the instructors as "awesome" and praises their open door policy, Smith said the workload is a lot to handle.

"My only complaint is that we have to pay to work a 50-hour week," she said. "It's difficult to swallow."

The students deal with a variety of clients who face challenges and disadvantages that require extra sensitivity. The future lawyers take part in an outreach service that gives advice and assistance to maximum security inmates at Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (Wilkinson Road Jail) and clients from the Eric Martin Pavilion, a mental health facility in Victoria. This is exposure they might not find in a typical law firm—exposure Perks believes provides a "tremendous learning opportunity."

Perks feels the centre is currently in good shape, both in its quality of education and in its services to clients.

The Bar Association, the Law foundation and the government all currently fund the Law Centre. They are part of the broad support for the centre within the community.

"It's a real tribute to the work the students do here," said Perks.

The Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS) likewise rallied to support the Law Centre when lost funding threatened to close the centre.

"The students provide the last line of defence for individuals' rights in these areas," said Alix Hotsenpiller from TAPS in *the Times Colonist* Dec. 5, 2002. "It's one of the only forms of direct assistance for poverty law, and it's much more important now."

But funding is always an issue. According to Gallins, it's the centre's weakness. He said that funding is firm until March 2006. After that, he won't hazard a guess.

But staff at the centre are optimistic.

When more funding is needed, said Perks, "I understand we'll cross those bridges."

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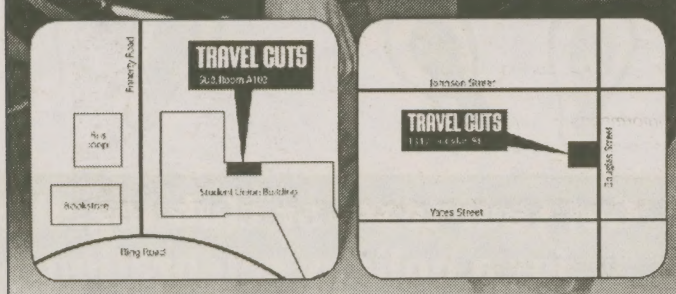

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NEWS BRIEFS

Bunny shooters come forward
Two people have been fined for the Nov. 19 shooting of a campus rabbit.

The Saanich Police issued a municipal ticket and a fine of $100 each to two unidentified people for shooting a bow and arrow. Bylaw #8092 states that such weapons can only be used for "recreational purposes."

The couple admitted they had been hunting the rabbit and turned themselves in.

Police consulted with a senior protection officer at the SPCA and charges were not laid under the Protection of Cruelty to Animals Act, since the rabbit in question was not in the custody of those charged.

The act protects pets and family animals from mistreatment, not wild animals.

However, Penny Stone, assistant manager at the Victoria branch of the SPCA, is appalled that charges were not laid. "I am absolutely horrified that there are no laws to protect animals from this kind of abuse," she said.

The injured rabbit, known as Rupert, was shot through the ears by a 60-centimetre long metal arrow. He is in good condition, though he is still medicated, says the SPCA.

Rupert is currently in foster care and is looking for a permanent home.

—M.S.

A busy pub, a missing trophy
It was a busy Friday night at Felicita's when the UVSS pool club was robbed of its trophy.

Near last call on Nov. 18, as the club was finishing up its weekly tournament, a member noticed that the trophy, which had been placed on a table, was missing.

Pool club president Bo Jia said that right before they realized it was missing, a drunk man had come up to the table wanting to play pool. Jia explained to him that it was too late, since others were already signed up ahead of him and the bar about to close.

Felicita's management said that it was a prank. They believe they know who took the trophy and are not letting the suspect or his friend back in the pub unless the trophy is returned.

However, since the pool club's final tournament is coming up on Dec. 10, the club had to purchase a $120 replacement.

—M.M.

Greatest Quebecker search on
CBC's Greatest Canadian series has provoked a search for the greatest Quebecker.

A survey conduced by Leger Marketing Nov. 19–22 found that Rene Levesque, a sovereignty-friendly premier in the '70s and '80s and founding member of the Parti Quebecquois, is likely the most popular Quebecker.

Levesque ranked 69 in the country, but 4,253 people in Quebec ranked him number one, followed by TV personality Janette Bertrand, paralympic athlete and Olympic gold-medal winner Chantal Petitclerc and Celine Dion.

Outspoken Quebeckers have complained that several prominent francophones were ignored. Neither Joseph-Armand Bombardier, who invented the snowmobile, nor Denys Arcand, an award-winning filmmaker, were on the CBC's top 100 list.

After tallying over 1.2 million votes, the CBC revealed that Tommy Douglas, the "founder of modern Medicare" is the nation's choice for Greatest Canadian. Terry Fox and Pierre Elliott Trudeau rounded out the top three.

—M.S.

Help for students heading overseas

by Andrew Bishop

After spending time overseas, Dersu Rhodes knows that problems can come up while travelling and working abroad.

Last year Rhodes traveled to Europe and Southeast Asia and worked for two months at a Youth Teaching Program in Malaysia. He said that with more information and resources, he could have avoided some of the problems he encountered while travelling.

In order to share his experience, Rhodes, the Overseas Researcher at UVic Career Services, is organizing an information session for students interested in working or travelling abroad. "That's why I wanted to put on this workshop—to prevent people from 'figuring it out the hard way' like me," he said.

Rhodes hopes that it will help students to better prepare themselves mentally and physically before they leave and to deal with problems—such as culture shock and visa or money issues—that may arise while abroad.

Guest speakers from the Department of Consular Affairs in Ottawa will address the technical aspects of travelling and securing a job in another country, while student representatives, including Rhodes himself, will talk about their personal experiences working overseas.

Despite the uncertainties of international work and travel, there are many resources available to students before they leave, such as the Better Business Bureau, which has a huge database that records information on "blacklisted" businesses worldwide.

Additionally, Consular Affairs is devoted to informing and assisting Canadians before and during their trips. They have a variety of information on their website, including an article on the many Canadians who have been jailed in foreign countries on drug charges.

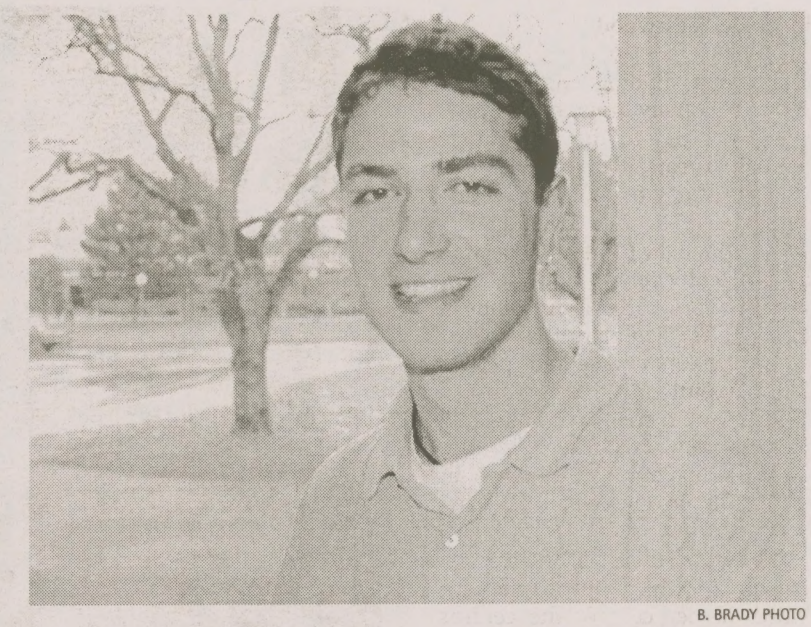
Staying out of trouble and respecting the customs and culture of the people are obvious but important factors of being in a foreign country, said Rhodes.

"It's important to understand that being Canadian doesn't exempt you from local laws," he said.

The workshop will also address the current world political situation and the effects of U.S. foreign policy on Canadian travellers. Rhodes said that in this rapidly changing world, it has become important for Canadian travellers to define themselves as distinct from Americans, and not just in the different flag we wear on our backpacks.

A variety of other issues will be dealt with, including those specific to women working and travelling abroad, the financial realities of extended stays in other countries, and the pros and cons of having a job set up before you leave.

First-time travellers, as well as seasoned veterans, are invited attend. The workshop will be held Thursday Dec. 2 at 4:30 p.m. in Mac D116.



B. BRADY PHOTO

Dersu Rhodes wants to help other students going abroad.

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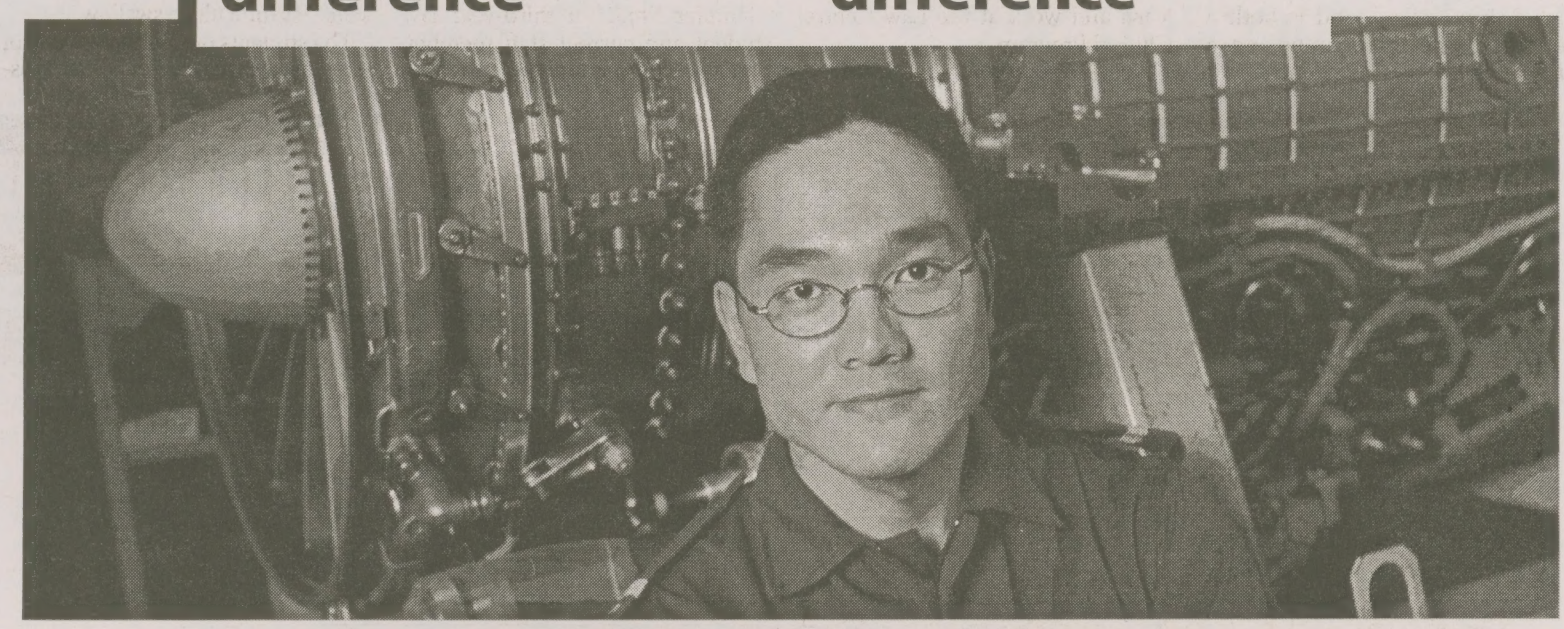

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Editorial

Liberals ignoring women's issues

In March of this year, all 37 of B.C.'s women's centres lost their provincial funding.

After an outcry by concerned citizens, the government defended the cut, saying that transition houses and counselling services would cover the role formerly provided by women's centres. The government cost to fund the centres—which were used by about 300,000 women each year—was about $1.7 million.

In October, B.C. Finance Minister Gary Collins announced the province would end up with a $1.9 billion surplus at the end of this fiscal year, about $1 billion more than expected in September.

Something doesn't add up.

With this week's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we're reminded that the BC Liberals are turning a blind eye to women's issues in the province. The women's centres were at the forefront of advancing women's equality issues and providing direct support to women and their families.

A United Nations committee that reports on the status of women said that it is concerned "about a number of recent changes in British Columbia which have a disproportionately negative impact on women, in particular Aboriginal women," a listing of which can be found in our news section this week.

On Friday, Dec. 3, UVic will remember the 14 women killed on Dec. 6, 1989, and hope to end violence against women. The BC Liberals should reflect on the damage they've done by making cuts to vital services for women in this province.

Victoria needs a safe injection site

The idea of a safe injection site for drug addicts in Victoria has been batted around for a few years now, with health officials and the mayor saying that it's needed.

The city has roughly 2,000 intravenous drug users, and as Ashley Akins' feature (see pages 10/11) in this issue shows, addiction can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or social and financial standing.

Victoria seems like a clean cut city, partly because the massive number of addicts—about the same, per capita, as Vancouver—is hidden beneath the sparkling image of our "tourist town."

But they're out there, as are the ubiquitous needles on sidewalks and dealers lurking on even the most visible street corners.

Vancouver's safe injection site has been open since September of 2003, and the one-year assessment of the facility showed that the clinic is saving lives and helping addicts get treatment. There are an average of 588 injections each day, the CBC reported, with two to four of clients referred to treatment programs.

Users bring their own drugs, and are provided with a sterile needle and large mirror, as well as medical care and counselling. The site gives the user access to this equipment under the supervision of trained medical and counseling staff.

Although safe injection sites are by no means a solution to the burgeoning drug problem, they're a move in the right direction. The public should be aware of the issue—ignoring it won't make it go away—and having users inject in a safe, supervised location is much better than finding Hepatitis C-infected needles in a park.

These sites address the problem realistically, by acknowledging that people are using drugs and are unable to control their habit. Treatment is still the best option, but when people are shooting up in parks and street corners, often discarding the used needles on the ground, something has to be done.

Safe injection sites aren't the ideal, but there just isn't enough money to fix the entire problem. A site would at least reduce the number of overdoses, lower the chances of addicts becoming infected with Hepatitis C and HIV, and lower health costs incurred to treat bacterial infections and other illnesses that can be contracted from a used needle.

Victoria has a massive drug crisis—it's time to sit up and take notice.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write us, or write for us.
edit@martlet.ca

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"No no, I'm fine, really. I've had a good run at it, but you may as well just take over officially this year. Besides, I've got stuff I've meaning to get done. I also got tickets to see Gwar, so that's cool."

LETTERS

Maxim debate continues

In response to "Maxim/Coors winner speaks out" and "Maxim/Coors contest was 'laughable,'" Nov. 18 *Martlet.*

First off Kristine, congratulations on your win! Heather, right on, if you were really giving the finger to some dudes in Vancouver! I believe that we, as women, all have the opportunity to decide exactly what we would like to do with our bodies, whenever we want to do it.

If a woman honestly finds herself happy in sex work (could be modelling for money and prizes erotically), great. Women's sexuality is always a site of pleasure. And of danger.

And this is a debate about choice, about agency. The problem, inside the debate, is the promotion of objectifying women. And you, Heather and Kristine, are complicit in the promotion of women as sex, as commodities, as products for consumption—more than I or other women that I know who actively oppose these ads, contests, movies and magazines, et cetera.

You and I do not share the same opinion, however—it is basic that the ads, and the Maxim/Coors contest, is offensive and wrong to so many women. Without ignoring all of the millions of women who are sexual assault survivors, "agency" is impossible.

Caitlin Walsh

The letters just keep on coming

I have been reading the last few issues of *the Martlet* with great interest, specifically with regards to the ongoing opinionated battles over the Maxim/Coors Lite contest. It is my understanding that any woman who identifies with the oppressive nature of a patriarchal society seeks more power and choice for women in general.

So what if the women competing in the contest enjoy themselves and make that choice freely and openly? How is that choice any different than choosing not to participate? By regarding the contest as sexist and degrading, you're assigning women the role of submissive, when in actuality they have signed up under their own free will. People will always have their own views and free will to exercise those views, so I suppose the bottom line is, if you don't like a contest like that, don't watch. It is nobody's place to judge the participants.

Mitch Walker

And they just don't stop

In response to ""Maxim/Coors winner speaks out," Nov. 18 *Martlet.*

First off, yes—I want to imagine a world without magazines, movies, television and models. If we get rid of these media, this does not translate into "millions of jobs being lost" or the downfall of the economy. If capitalism does indeed remain as the economic system we work in, people's attitudes and perceptions will change, not their spending.

This does not mean that I want another hegemonic discourse that continues to objectify or degrade a large percentage of the population to replace the existing one. I want to imagine a world where millions (if not billions) of dollars are not made by making women feel like they have a standard to live up to: "smooth" and "round"—a.k.a. young, white, thin, tight, straight, able-bodied (whatever that means).

But the fact remains that there is a beauty standard, and unless the contestant is actively opposing that by not being any of the previous qualifiers, then she is as responsible for the millions of dollars spent on cosmetics and surgeries; on the blatant sexualization of young children; anorexia and bulimia; as well as the millions of unreported cases (that I am positive exist) of anxiety and depression about body image. We all need to take responsibility for how we reproduce certain discourses within a systemic creation of a "beauty truth" and how, without us, these discourses would not exist.

Ashley Dryburgh

Vegetarians fire back

Is Jonathan Hughes being deliberately obtuse? The reason vegetarians claim moral superiority (if they do, we're not all on our high horses) is obvious: what you eat does make a difference. In fact, it is one of the few ways you can make a concrete every day difference.

If you think it's a personal choice between you and your taste buds, think again. Eating low on the food chain is good for your health, which means good for our public health care system. It's good for the beings who get eaten, of course, and who's to say they shouldn't be considered here? It's good in so many ways for the environment: remember the Brazilian rainforest, lungs of the earth, converted to cattle ranches to supply McDonalds? How about the globe's dwindling freshwater supplies sucked up by the beef industry? Think about the tons of pig manure contaminating ground water near giant pig farming factories. Got the picture yet, JH? If you care about your health, quality of life, conserving resources and protecting the environment, you go vegetarian, or even better, vegan.

Deirdre Gotto & Allan Gallupe

Real number of Iraqi casualties

Can anyone believe how dirty and dishonorable the U.S. administration is?

The official number of U.S. soldiers wounded in the "War on Terror" that was announced by the U.S. Department of Defense is 8,458 in Iraq and 423 in Afghanistan.

Can anyone believe that the U.S. military hospital in Germany, the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, announced that 20,802 troops have been treated at Landstuhl alone from injuries received in "Operations Iraqi Freedom" (occupying Iraq) and "Enduring Freedom" (occupying Afghanistan)?

The interesting part of the news is that I didn't find these numbers on Al Jazeera. These numbers were published by the well-known, Department of Defense-authorized daily newspaper distributed overseas for the U.S. military community, Stars and Stripes.

More than 17,200 of these soldiers were injured in Iraq, and more than 3,000 were injured in Afghanistan, as I read in a local newspaper.

These numbers are just for the U.S. soldiers who were moved to Germany. There are other thousands that were injured inside Iraq and Afghanistan, and treated in small local military clinics and hospitals, or moved to other U.S. military hospitals. The official number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan is 1,375 and 144. I wonder what the real numbers are.

The small Bush administration is re-identifying the meaning of "lies."

Raed Jarrar

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The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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Was Alexander the Great gay?

Lawyers and media want to rewrite sexual orientation in ancient and recent history

by Seth Cooper

Last week, Warner Bros. released Oliver Stone's new film, *Alexander*, amidst protests from Greek lawyers. Stone's matter-of-fact portrayal of Alexander as a bisexual prompted the lawyers to threaten legal action to force the film to include a disclaimer explicitly stating that the film was not based on historical fact, but rather mere fiction. What's puzzling about this story is that there is almost unanimous consent amongst scholars and historians that Alexander was indeed bisexual, if not gay.

Last week, ABC's hard-hitting investigative show *20/20* released an hour-long feature aimed at portraying the infamous slaying of Matthew Shepard, a gay male, not as a brutal hate crime but rather as a drug-motivated robbery. On Oct. 7, 1998, Shepard was lured from a Wyoming campus bar by two men pretending to be gay. His killers drove him to a remote location where they tied him to a fence and pistol-whipped him repeatedly, leaving him to die in near-freezing temperatures. *20/20*'s sensational piece of pseudo-reporting spins the unlikely tale that Matthew's homosexuality had nothing to do with the crime, and that Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson tortured and killed Matthew in order to deprive him of the contents of his wallet.

Both of these examples serve as an attack on gay elements in history. All cultures look to their own history for strength, knowledge and identity, and there is no better way to make a culture disappear than to destroy the very foundations upon which it is built. Clearly, those represented by the Greek lawyers are just too uncomfortable with the tension between a classic hero of ancient Greek culture and the cultural role that defines gay men in the 21st century. Perhaps they feel it's too soon for a mainstream movie to introduce this "controversial" element of Alexander's life to the viewing masses in a film that could bring homosexuality out of Hollywood's closet.

Was Alexander gay? Strictly speaking, the answer is "no," since being gay as an identity did not exist in ancient Macedonian society, and therefore such a question would make no sense. As Michael and Vicky Alveal Shecter glibly put it in their book *The Man Who Brought the World to its Knees*, "Alexander wasn't 'gay,' he simply had an unquenchable thirst for male flesh." While we could charitably imagine that the Greek lawyers are simply clarifying this point for interested blockbuster moviegoers, I doubt this is their intention.

Similarly, to "de-gay" the killing of Matthew Shepard would be to remove the very element that made Matthew a martyr for gays and a catalyst for the human rights backlash that followed. Perhaps no event has united gay people in North America more than the tragic killing of young Matthew.

ABC spokesperson Jeffrey Schneider defended the news report, stating "Exploring and re-examining the facts around that murder in a very thoughtful and in-depth way is the very essence of responsible journalism. This new information in no way diminishes the importance of the national conversation that took place after Matthew Shepard's murder." I don't think any journalist would argue this point with Schneider, but the mark of responsible journalism is that it aims to reveal a story that is consistent with the facts and not contrary to them.

Matthew Shepard was the victim of a hate crime. Interestingly, the prosecution did not seek this charge initially until McKinney confessed to killing him because he was gay. In fact, McKinney based his entire "gay-panic" defence upon this very premise! To suggest—six years later—that sexual orientation had nothing to do with the crime is a disservice to journalism, history and Matthew Shepard's memory. It is an insult to the intelligence of anyone who has interest in the matter, and it's a low blow against an icon of gay martyrdom.

If any new, compelling evidence arises suggesting that Alexander wasn't bisexual, or that Matthew Shepard was the unfortunate victim of a bizarre mugging rather than targeted for being gay, then by all means it should be brought forth to the public with an air of caution. However, such evidence does not exist, and these theories are far too important and potentially damaging to be haphazardly thrown around by Greek lawyers and shitty reporters.

Martin, please opt out of missile defence

The prime minister should tell Bush to renegotiate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

by Tim Boultbee

Hopefully talks earlier this week between Prime Minister Martin and President Bush will help end the softwood dispute and allow Canada to once again send its beef south. But if Bush asked Canada to participate in the U.S. national missile defence (NMD) system, the prime minister should have given an emphatic "No!"

Instead, the prime minister should have told Bush that most Canadians do not want Canada to participate in a plan that critics such as the Union of Concerned Scientists say can be fooled by decoys and cannot protect the United States from short-range or ship-launched missiles, or from missiles carrying chemical or biological weapons. Instead of protecting anyone, the prime minister should have told Bush that the NMD will no doubt see other countries besides Russia developing weapons that can fool any system the U.S. deploys.

As a former finance minister, Martin should have also questioned Bush about the costs of NMD. The Pentagon itself estimated in April 2000 that building and operating the first phase of NMD will be $30.2 billion and that full development will cost between $50 billion and $60 billion. That is an awfully large sum of money for a system that has a history of failed tests. And isn't it more than a bit twisted that a government is willing to spend that kind of money on weapons rather than on education, health care or trying to deal with poverty?

Hopefully, the prime minister also had the courage to point out to Bush the hypocrisy of the American right to develop the NMD while abrogating the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) and rejecting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) while condemning both North Korea and Iran for developing nuclear weapons. In scrapping the ABM and rejecting the CTBT, the United States is moving away from nuclear disarmament, and other countries are bound to follow the American example. Rather than making the world a safer place, then, the NMD will actually contribute to distrust between nations and encourage non-nuclear nations to develop their own weapon systems.

What the prime minister should have told Bush is that if the United States is seriously concerned about halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, then the Bush administration needs to set a good example for countries that have nuclear weapons and those considering their development. For starters, the U.S. should scrap the NMD, renegotiate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and end its bellicose language.

To this end, the prime minister should have told Bush that Canada would be more than willing to help the United States charter a course that steers the world away from weapons that threaten not only American citizens but the rest of the world as well.

Trans fat ban saves health cost and lives

by Taisha Garby

On Nov. 23 the House of Commons passed a motion calling for regulations or legislation within one year that would virtually ban trans fats in Canada. This event could have tremendous effects on our country and the way we live.

Most of the products Canadians eat come from American companies.

Following the ban we will either no longer carry their products in our stores or they will have to remove all trans fats from their wares. This will be a very costly process and not good for the American economy. This, is turn, will bring down the Canadian economy since they are so closely tied. However, Canadian companies that make products that don't contain trans fats will see a significant rise in sales as their merchandise will be highly sought after. There might be an argument from the Americans about the Free Trade Agreement—does anyone else remember softwood lumber? Enough said.

Grocery stores will be revolutionized. The shelves will carry less products such as chips and cookies and more healthy things like produce and bread. Many of our favourite junk foods will disappear from stores across the nation.

Fast food restaurants will have to change the oil they use for cooking fries, onion rings, chicken nuggets, et cetera. They might not taste as good after the revamp, but the taste of fries is insignificant compared to the benefits. This will cost them a tremendous amount of money, but it will be worth it for our health.

Trans fats cost our health care system billions of dollars each year in heart surgeries, care for heart attack and stroke patients, and care for heart disease patients. "Finding healthy alternatives to fats and oils high in trans fats will require a concerted effort," said the country's health minister. "Health Canada will help ensure that practical solutions are developed to help Canadians move from trans fats to healthier alternatives."

Hopefully we will soon live in a world where people don't have to read the label of every food product they buy because we will be free of trans fats. Congratulations, Canada, on being the second country in the world after Denmark to pass this motion.

The Martlet would like to thank all its volunteers and contributors from 2004. Have a happy holiday and a good time in 2005.

Hastings never rests

Exploring the reality of IV drug use

story and photos by Ashley Akins

It's like one of those cheap horror flicks where zombies come out of the fog.

The sun sets on East Hastings and everything turns to a dull, greyish colour. Vibrant murals are all but drowned out by graffiti and the once-living faces of the people that trudge past it. But like the walls, the faces are disguised by warped, drugged-up masks—people aimlessly wandering, prodded skin and sunken eyes.

Once you enter East Hastings, you've stepped into something you can't quite call life. The people aren't dead yet, but they're not alive either. Needles decorate the curbs. Piles of what looks like rubbish turns out to be someone's home for the night. The alleys smell like outhouses with a hint of rotten food, marijuana or vomit . . . it's hard to tell which one. The volume seems to be muted except for the random bursts of profanity. Everything is hazy. Everything is monotone. You may as well be colourblind.

This is East Hastings Street. Downtown Vancouver. Friday night at 11 p.m.

"It's almost sexy and glamorous because it's so horrific," says Steve McDougall, a recovered drug addict who spent years on and off heroin. "I've never seen anything like it in North America."

Maybe that's because he's used to Victoria, our little tourist city on the island, beautiful and quaint. Or maybe it's just quieter, hushed to "beautify" the city, to attract the tourists. We don't have an East Hastings to see or smell, but have you seen the Open Door, the Needle Exchange or "Crack Corner" on Pandora and Douglas? Victoria has 2,000 intravenous drug addicts—the same amount, per capita, as Vancouver. We're just not allowed to notice.

The provincial government is spending $10 million on a Vancouver site that will provide free, legal heroin for addicts. It will open in January. Even more than that is spent on enforcement options. Yet Victoria hasn't received funding to create one recovery house. A year after Vancouver set up its experimental safe injection site, Victoria is now looking to open one. According to the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the site is almost a guarantee. McDougall says this shows the city is making an effort to come to grips with these issues.

There are 5,000 intravenous drug users on the Downtown Eastside in Vancouver—the highest concentration in Canada. Insite, Vancouver's safe injection site, oversees about 500 users and up to 800 injections per day. Ninety per cent of its patients are infected with hepatitis C and 30 per cent are HIV positive. According to McDougall, though roughly one in every five families are affected by addiction in some way, the majority of the public refuses to care.

"We're trying to change the perspective on drug addiction from a criminal issue to a health issue," says Jeff West, the co-ordinator at Insite. "It takes the buzz out of doing drugs because this place is very clinical. The folks that use the site are not people who are in the party mode."

The immaculate site resembles a Radio City Music Hall dressing room: 12 booths lined up, each equipped with full-length mirrors to allow the user to see his or her vein while nurses observe the injection. The mirrors were also installed, however, to force patients to look at what they have become.

Insite is a clean, safe environment where supervised injections occur with self-provided drugs. The site provides sterile needles, medical care and counselling for its patients. It is a type of harm reduction, a division of Vancouver's Four Pillar Drug Strategy, along with prevention, enforcement and treatment. According to West, this is harm reduction for both the user and the community. Police and local businesses have less drug-related trouble to deal with, and curbs are not strewn with used needles anymore.

"The businesses have dealt with the problem for so long, their compassion started to slip away," says West. "But I think it's coming back now."

The clinic focuses on building trusting relationships with the users and connecting them with detox centres, referring between five and 10 patients every day. Insite has just received approval to build a low-threshold detox centre on the second floor of the building that will house 20 to 28 beds, adding to the 48 beds in the two existing detox centres.

According to Sgt. Al Arsenault, a Vancouver police officer, harm reduction isn't necessarily the right approach. He believes that it undermines the other three pillars for drug strategy because it is the only division that doesn't condemn drug use.

"What does the harm is the relation between the addict and the drug," says Arsenault. "Don't blame it on the needle."

In 1987, a needle exchange was established in Vancouver, and 127,000 needles were given out. Instead of improving the situation, the problem worsened because desperate cocaine addicts used the needles to pump coke-infected blood into their systems.

"On the fourth day of coke runs, [the addicts] would take the clean needles to flush blood residue off the walls in case it had a trace of coke in it," says Arsenault. "There are all of these frailties of the human character that no needle exchange can account for."

Last year, Vancouver's needle exchange gave out over three million needles, and the hepatitis C rate among users skyrocketed to 90 per cent.

"These drugs are poison, and we're saying, 'let's do it,' and calling it safe," says Arsenault. "When a dog gets into poison, we take it to the vet and take the poison away. I wouldn't treat a dog like we're treating these people."

Arsenault admits that a positive aspect of Insite is the immediate assistance someone receives in case of an overdose.

"The act of overdosing won't go down," says Arsenault. "Death from overdosing [might]."

This is what the provincial government has labelled as success. A pulse equals victory. So, in that sense, we have improved—maybe not the quality of life but the fact of life.

"The threshold that we're accepting at which drug use is tolerable is death," says Arsenault. "There's got to be something more than just a pulse."

Victoria's site has yet to be established. In the meantime, citizens, churchgoers and patrons have created a few areas of refuge for drug users. One is the Open Door on Pembroke Street, providing shelter, food, Internet and a place to socialize.

Addicts sprawl on the steps outside, either over-intoxicated or yearning to be. But inside, everyone reads the paper, plays pool, drinks coffee and socializes with Reverend Alan Tysick, known to everyone as "Al."

"The people here aren't throwaways," says Dennis, a drug addict who asked that his last name not be used. "They just look like it. It's not fair."

The Open Door is Victoria's safe haven for those who don't have one, a place to keep track of the street people without homes. "Otherwise, they just fade away, and you're sent a list saying who has died," says Dennis. Three memorials were held here last week.

Kerrie Scott, a social worker for the Open Door who graduated from the University of Victoria in June, thinks this is a great step for Victoria's drug scene. "It doesn't make any sense denying what's happening," she says. "People are dying."

One of the most difficult challenges users face when combatting their drug addiction is the stigma that it has in society. "You feel like such a piece of junk anyway," says McDougall. "You might as well keep using because you don't deserve to live."

Most addicts isolate themselves from society because they are too ashamed to let the public see their pain. By doing so, they feed their addiction because no one discourages them from using. "I thought all drug addicts were a waste of human skin," admits Daniel MacDonald. "That is, until I started associating with them."

MacDonald, who has never used intravenous drugs, found himself forming his own needle exchange after he witnessed a young girl playing beside a used needle on the street.

Now, he is a member of the Society of Living Intravenous Drug Users (SOLID), the most active user group in Victoria that deals with harm reduction and needle exchange. It is the only group that does not promote abstinence.

At the weekly meeting at the Capital Regional District health building, a few of its 150 members gather, surrounded by the smell of marijuana, to discuss drug-related issues. Last week's meeting included a 31-year-old grandmother, a master's graduate, a certified first aid trainee and a woman who had nothing but her 1998 chequebook to verify the date of a November 2004 meeting. Every member at the meeting suffered from hepatitis C. Two were also HIV-positive.

They are tired of the government's lack of funding for drug relief services and impatiently wait for the talk of Victoria's safe injection site to become more than just a hot conversation topic. One of these members is Dennis.

"In the meantime, we're trying to teach [drug addicts] that what they're doing is killing themselves," says the 48-year-old member of SOLID.

But time is constantly running out for users. "You can't save the dead," says McDougall. And he would know. He was a musician and a writer, an intelligent, cultured man who had travelled the world. He used to perform in a band called The South Side Allstars and owned a prosperous record store, Mezzrow's Records, in Victoria. In his words, "creativity symbolized the point of being alive." He was a community support worker who worked with children with autism and Down syndrome.

He was also a drug addict—a drug addict who relapsed three times and recovered three times, who lost three marriages and left three children without a dad. All because he couldn't get off heroin.

In the 1980s and early '90s, McDougall suffered from two life-threatening drug relapses. Both times he tried rehabilitation treatment. Both treatment facilities experimented with potential cures to heroin by substituting the addiction with methadone and morphine. By the time McDougall relapsed for a

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third time in 2000, what he was left with barely constituted a life.

He couldn't read, write or even talk. His body was confined to a wheelchair, while his mind was confined to whatever drug he could get his hands on. He was so filthy that his little girl asked him not to tuck her in anymore.

"I tried to pull away as much as I could out of shame," says McDougall.

His ex-wife informed his family in Portland, Ore., of his decrepit condition. He hadn't contacted them for a decade, but when they heard of his state, his two younger brothers immediately came to Victoria to convince him to attend rehab.

His only long-term treatment option in Southern Vancouver Island was Edgewood, a treatment centre located in Nanaimo. As with all treatment facilities in British Columbia, the only glitch was the expense: $10,000 for eight weeks.

His family paid for the entire thing, as well as an extended program for those who require more time before re-entering society after the eight-week in-patient cycle. On top of the $10,000, the extension cost $1,500 per month.

"My family came and saved my life," says McDougall. "I was basically dead."

His self-proclaimed "clean date" was Dec. 18, 2002, when he began his four-month stay at Edgewood.

At first, McDougall couldn't even focus enough to read two lines. He was hostile and self-loathing. For the first five or six weeks, he refused anyone's advice. The turning point was when he decided to "shut up and listen." He began to see that he deserved to live–that he was worth it. And through that, he dug up the essence of his life: writing and playing music.

"I thought I had lost those forever," he says. "Choosing to resume my life was choosing to embrace creativity."

He feared returning to Victoria after he finally recovered. He didn't want to see his "ghosts from the past," the places he had broken into, the people he had hurt. But this time, he didn't relapse. Instead, he felt that he had the strength to help others suffering from drug addiction. Though a lot of people told him that re-integrating with users would harm his recovery, McDougall disagreed. "Almost immediately, my reaction was horror," he says. "There was no fucking way I'd choose this again."

He is now actively involved in Narcotics Anonymous service work and speaks at Victoria's detox centres. In two weeks, McDougall will celebrate his second anniversary of being clean.

He is one of the lucky few that got a second chance to learn of a life without drugs, with motivation and a sense of personality. Users often lose these qualities to the greed and ego of a drug addict who just needs his or her fix.

When someone is on their last breath, says Sgt. Arsenault, an addict will steal the boots off their feet instead of calling an ambulance.

This province's funding for treatment facilities is miniscule considering the number of addicts in Victoria and Vancouver. It is also far less than the amount of funding invested into the other three drug strategy pillars. There are less than 100 detox beds in British Columbia for the 10,000 to 15,000 intravenous drug addicts who live in the province. Victoria has only seven.

Currently, treatment is too expensive for the average addict to afford. The only options are the standard 28-day treatment sessions that are far too short to be effective for heavy addicts.

"The adjustment [at rehab] was major," says McDougall. "If it was only 28 days, I wouldn't have had a chance . . . Treatment is so horribly underfunded."

Though Victoria used to have safe houses, the government has now shut down almost all of them. One of the only remaining safe houses is the Foundation Recovery House that carries a 12-step program. There are also two other small safe houses on the island, each housing less than 10 people at any given time. They are difficult to stabilize and rarely have 24-hour staff.

"There needs to be a place for people to go if they do decide to change their lives," says McDougall.

Though murmurings about drug abuse issues are gradually changing to voices confronting the unavoidable issue, harm reduction is only one step in the war on drugs. The drug addiction rate will continue to rise unless we receive funding for treatment to build more residential treatment facilities and recovery houses. The question is not why drug users don't choose to stop, it's where they would go.

On East Hastings at midnight, a 32-year-old woman doesn't even run from the police as she snorts her coke. Before she tried it at a party over a decade ago, she had a college degree and a planned future. She looks unusually strong in her fragile situation. Snot drips from her nose onto the ground because it is so cold. She doesn't notice. Or she doesn't care.

"I lived right there in those apartments growing up," she says, pointing to an old building flanking the worst alley on Hastings. "My view was this alley, and I thought it was disgusting. I hated it.

"Now I'm one of these people."

G. :: GUM WILL KEEP YOUR MOUTH MOIST, AND HELPS PREVENT JAW-CLENCHING AND OPLE WANT TO DO ON A CRACK RUN. DON'T LET YOURSELF BECOME WORN DOWN. OM FIVE MINUTES TO TWO HOURS. :: CRACK CAN DAMAGE THE BRAIN AND AFFECT MEMORY ANOID, OR BEHAVE IN AN ERRATIC OR VIOLENT WAY. :: CRACK CAN CAUSE HALLUCINATIONS AND MUSCLE TWITCHING.

GWAR brutalizes Victoria

GWAR, Sugar Nightclub, Nov. 25

by Andrea Dupuis

Through the blood/semen/mucus dripping from my forehead, I can faintly make out the figures of monster-sized creature-beasts playing instruments. Every few minutes the crowd is spewed with sludge—what I later discovered was food colouring—from various body parts, severed limbs, phalluses and Paris Hilton's . . . um . . . private areas.

GWAR was not just an awesome show in terms of the music ("Dying Fetus" was incredible), the show was an "experience." Disregarding the over-priced beer and small stage, the sound was fairly good, the crowd was exuberant, and I imagine only a few people left Sugar on Saturday night human-coloured. I feel sorry for whoever had to mop the mess off the floors and walls, but I feel even more sorry for those who missed it.

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Theatre collective shows the 'wicked women'

A new play shows that women 'are not always victims'

What: *The Monster Trilogy*
When: Dec. 2 to 5 @ 8 p.m.
Where: Solstice Café, 529 Pandora Street
How Much: $8 to $10

by Ashley Akins

A local theatre collective plays a different role in this year's Violence Against Women Week by presenting *The Monster Trilogy*, a three-part play written by R.M. Vaughan that depicts women who are empowered by the violence in their lives.

"These women are not the victims of violence but the perpetrators," said Sarah Hutchison, a founder of the BumbleBee Theatre Collective. "It's a different approach because they are responsible for the violence in their lives."

The play, directed by University of Victoria student Jen Braem, is composed of three monologues performed by UVic graduates Meg Braem, Britt Small and Marisa Smith. All deliver the pieces in the perspective of women perpetrators: Smith as a real-life woman, Susan Smith, who speaks from jail about murdering her children by driving her car off a cliff; Small as a bigoted police officer who worries that her son has inherited the "kill gene" after she discovers that she is distantly related to a rapist and murderer; and Braem as a reverend who is fascinated by children's funerals, certain that she can help their spirits by attending.

"Most female characters in literature are written to facilitate the male's journey," said Small. "You don't get wicked women like this very often."

The BumbleBee Theatre Collective focuses on creating socially and politically relevant theatre and feels that it is important to address these issues by exploring new ideas.

This is the second year that the company has taken part in the Violence Against Women Awareness Week.

"I think it's worthwhile for people to take a look at something that doesn't portray women as victims," said Hutchison. "We're not always victims and we're just as likely to be on the other side of it."

The Violence Against Women Awareness Week commemorates the 15th anniversary of the tragic deaths of 14 women who were murdered at the École Polytechnique in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. It is now dedicated to increasing awareness.

As the BumbleBee Theatre Collective "feeds off the energy of the week," it hopes to explore new outlooks about violence relating to women and gain awareness by reaching out to the public with a slightly different message, said Hutchison.

The Monster Trilogy performs from Dec. 2 to 5 at 8 p.m., with an additional showing at 4 p.m. on Dec. 5.

PROVIDED PHOTOS

Between sleep and waking

Kaleidoscope celebrates 100 years of *Peter Pan*

What: *Peter Pan*
When: Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11 @ 7 p.m.
Dec. 5, 11, 12 @ 2 p.m.
Where: McPherson Playhouse
How Much: $15 to $20

by Andrea Dupuis

It is hard to imagine a childhood with no *Peter Pan*: the classic story about Neverland is one of the most popular stories for both children and adults. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first-ever staged *Peter Pan*, Kaleidoscope Theatre's newest production promises to appeal to the young and the not-so-young.

"[The show has] substance for adults. For the kids you will have Peter Pan flying, comedic pirates and an outrageous Captain Hook," says Leslie Bland, director of the play and artistic director for Kaleidoscope Theatre.

Peter Pan "explores the paradoxical views of [youth] and adults toward aging and toward each other," says Bland, adding that the play is truly for all ages.

Based on J.M. Barrie's classic play, Bland's adaptation stays true to the original but has some unique twists. Bland says he re-shaped and rearranged the original but preserved most of it. "We tell the story with a different starting point. It starts where it ends in the original." In his adaptation, Wendy and her daughter Jane relive Wendy's Neverland experiences.

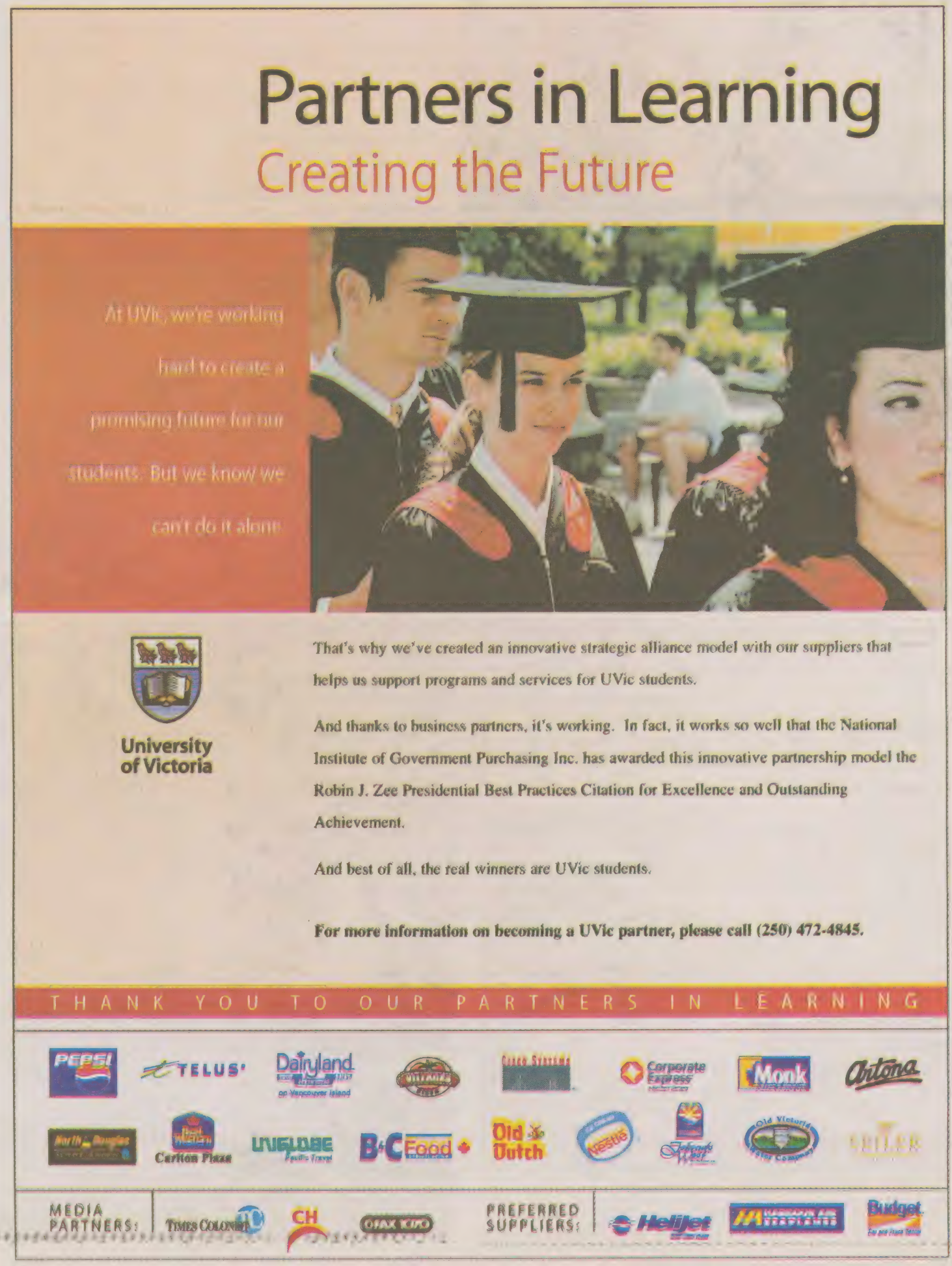
"It is a metaphor for what happens with all parents and all children," says Bland. "[It is] one big dream Wendy is having because she is worried she is getting old and her daughter [Jane] is getting old and will leave her."

"We like to think we are adding another layer to the onion," he says.

Bland has been with Kaleidoscope Theatre for four years. He has directed about 100 plays in his career, averaging four or five plays a year. He also teaches Theatre 101 at UVic, which he says "dabbles in everything theatrical."

This year is a special year for *Peter Pan* because it marks the 30th anniversary season for Kaleidoscope Theatre. "Every year it gets better," says Bland. This year, they have brought together a talented cast of around 35, both children and adults, including veteran performers Adam Holroyd as Peter, Roderick Glanville as Captain Hook, Emily Medd and Rachelle Thompson as Wendy and Jane, and newcomer Katya Delancy as Mrs. Darling/ Adult Wendy.

"Neverland is a place between sleep and waking, between pretend and reality. The production embraces the ambiguity," says Bland. "The reality is, [the play] is a dream."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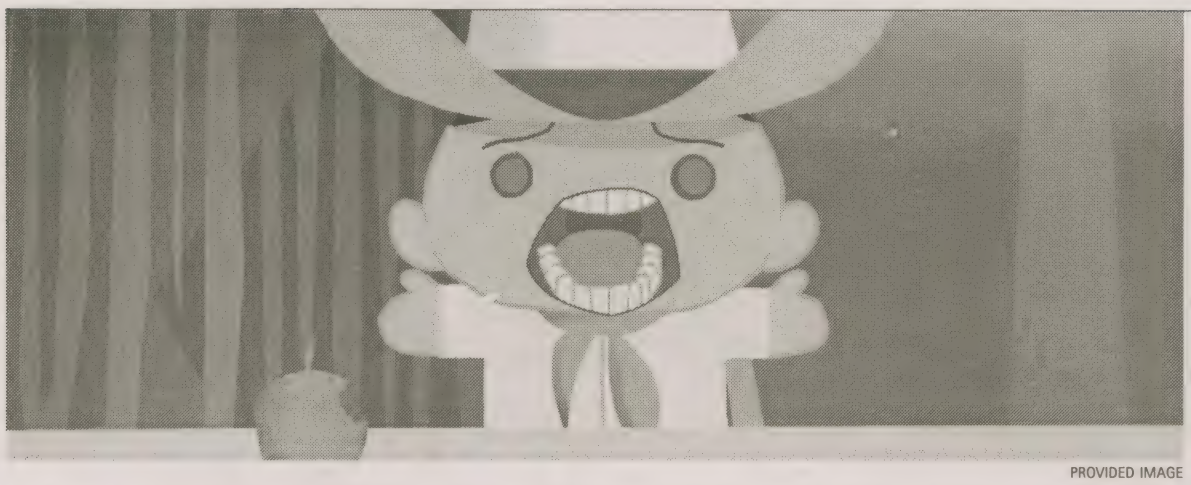

PROVIDED IMAGE

Audience favourite "Dr. Tran" returns by popular demand to this year's Sick and Twisted show.

Sickness with a twist

What: Spike and Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation
When: Dec. 3-4 @ 7:15, 9:15, 11:15 p.m.; Dec. 5-9 @ 7:15, 9:15 p.m.
Where: The Roxy Theatre, 2657 Quadra St.
How Much: $5

by Graham Stark

Beavis and Butt-head. South Park. Finding Nemo. None of these would have existed had it not been for two guys called Spike and Mike.

These names have been synonymous with independent animation for more than 25 years—they played *Beavis and Butt-head* long before MTV and screened the original short that spurred *South Park*. *Finding Nemo* director Andrew Stanton credits them with launching his career.

This dynamic duo began promoting animated shorts in 1977, and despite Mike's death in 1994, Spike is carrying on strong, and their Festival of Animation continues to encourage young animators.

However, not all animation is family friendly—not by a long shot—which is why Spike and Mike introduced the Sick and Twisted festival in 1990.

The not-so-family-friendly festival showcases shorts too revolting or mature for the regular festival and has given some obscure but hilarious shorts some serious exposure. Not only has this given some cult followings, but sometimes even mainstream acceptance.

One example of a short with a cult following is "Dr. Tran," which is back by popular demand this year. "Dr. Tran" follows the (not so) extraordinary adventures of its title character, a young Vietnamese boy who would rather go back to his village than do most of the stuff the narrator has lined up for him.

The Sick and Twisted festival will also be showing the famously absurd works of animator Bill Plympton, as well as three "Happy Tree Friends" shorts. "Happy Tree Friends" are supposedly funny, but they're also one of the only series of shorts that have the dubious honour of being described as "fucked up" by almost everyone who watches them.

This year's festival lineup even features an animated short starring Spike and Mike themselves, so check it out for a good time, some very twisted animation, and a whole lot of shorts that reference wang (see "Rez-Erection," "My First Boner" and "Mule Dick"). Just remember, there's likely to be some pretty nasty stuff, so it's not for the faint of heart. But if you want some bizarre fun, you can't go wrong with Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted festival.

Holiday *Tidings*

Allison Crowe
Tidings
Rubenesque Records

by Sarah Towle

I know what you're thinking: Christmas CDs are lame. But hear me out. This one's different. Honest.

Nanaimo's singer/songwriter and pianist Allison Crowe provides a raw and off-beat collection of Christmas songs that she makes her own.

The CD begins with an a cappella version of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," which shows off her vocal range and intense vibrato. She pays tribute to many Canadian musicians with songs such as Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," Sarah McLachlan's "Angel" and Joni Mitchell's "River."

As well, Crowe includes other non-traditional, but still seasonal, songs such as the Lennon-McCartney creations "Let it Be" and "In My Life," and the Rolling Stones' "Shine A Light."

And, for good measure, a few traditional songs arranged by Crowe are thrown into the mix: "Silent Night," "What Child Is This," "The First Noel" and "O Holy Night." Crowe's colourful voice, along with her fluid and polished piano playing, makes each track unique. Plus, the simplistic combination of voice, piano and the occasional tambourine proves a refreshing change from cheesy back-up choirs and synthesizers often heard in Christmas tunes.

The real Victoria

After Goodlake's
Terence Young
Raincoast Publishing

by Stephanie Bowen

Ask any of our millions of tourists and they'll tell you, "Victoria is beautiful. Just beau-ti-ful." Most of us have heard it since arriving in the fair garden city, and, all cynicism aside, the majority of us tend to grudgingly agree.

Unfortunately, we've also been made party to the town's seedy underbelly: we see the street kids pulling antics for a spare quarter; we know the effects of its dry job market; we feel the tug of high rent, the pressure of unlikely slum lords. When Vic smiles down on you, she is glorious, but when she decides to turn her head, she can be a nasty bitch.

This is something Terence Young is in no hurry to conceal.

His first novel, *After Goodlake's*, takes an in-depth look at the facade of Victoria by way of its protagonists—married, middle-aged couple Fergus and Annie. Together they have run Goodlake's (a downtown deli and family legacy), had a child, and paid down the mortgage on a sweet little Fairfield home and garden. This is Victoria life at its finest—its newlyweds-and-nearly-deads ideal.

Unfortunately, Fergus is having an affair with a 25-year-old single mother, and Annie smokes pot, drinks red wine and perpetually redecorates to deal with the futility of her life. Their son, Helios, has to work two graveyard-shift jobs to afford his leaky basement suite.

Goodlake's is more ball and chain than labour of love, keeping Fergus and Annie unhappily engaged, and Fergus may or may not be suffering from prostate cancer.

Not such a pretty picture.

Still, as a Victoria native himself, Young manages to capture what living here has taught us all: for every abysmally grey winter, there are cherry-blossom springs and five months of sunshine. There is a balance in both prose and story line: straightforward language evens out emotionally charged moments, while the bleakness of stagnant lives is conveyed with literary grace. This is a serious story that deconstructs ideas of love, marriage, the white picket fence and the two-car garage—institutions that imbue Victoria with its touristy charm.

It is also an honest story. Fergus and Annie could be your best friend's parents, glimmeringly adequate on the outside, frustrated behind closed doors, lamenting the loss of youth without the passion of youth to make it interesting. Surviving the bleak, relishing the singular, all the while walking the streets of Victoria.

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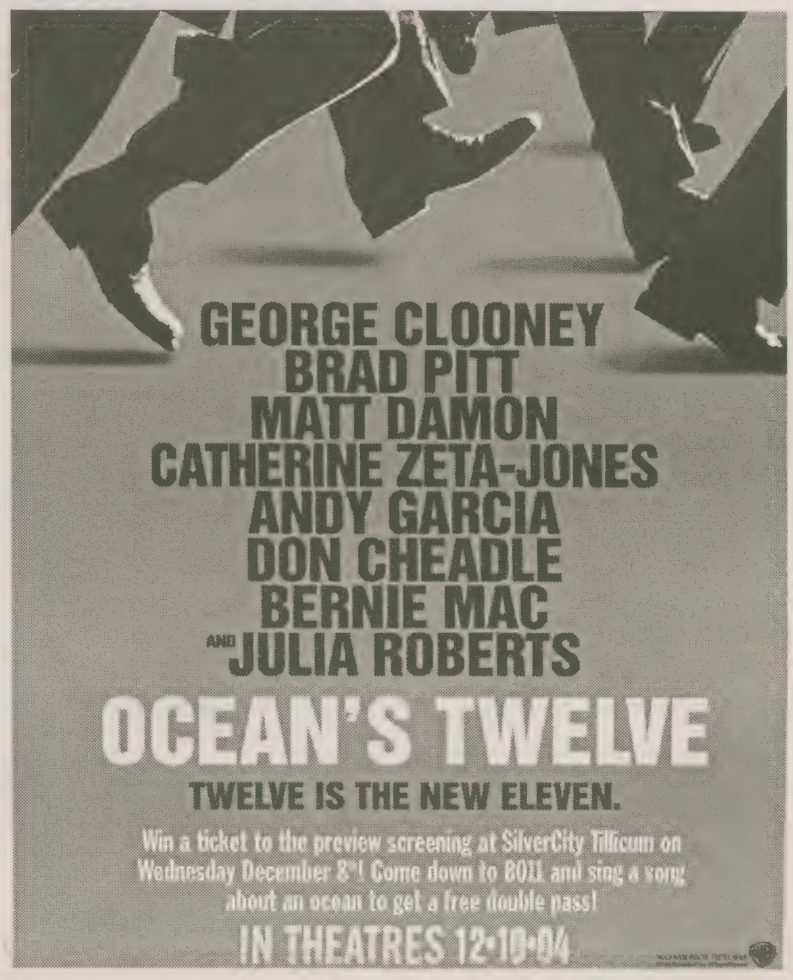
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IN THEATRES 12•10•04

Even worse than *Troy*

by Sacha Narine and Sarah L. Taggart

Sword-and-sandal epics like Stanley Kubrick's *Spartacus*, Ridley Scott's *Gladiator* and Oliver Stone's *Alexander* share some obvious things in common. They feature attractive, well-built men in rags and/or loincloths. They use both swords and sandals (whoa!). They focus on the life-story of single individuals: the slave Spartacus, the general Maximus and the real-life conqueror Alexander the Great.

Let's cut the shit. *Alexander* is terrible. If you thought *Troy* was painful to watch, just wait until you're two hours into Stone's master failure and praying for a) the movie to end or b) the apocalypse.

It's hard to believe how such a blunder could have made it through $150 million worth of funding, months of production and years of planning without a single person saying, "Wow, this really isn't going well." *Alexander*'s sparse, chaotic action scenes are vastly disappointing, its characterization is empty and ineffective, and the actors all seem to be, well, acting. Badly.

Colin Farrell does what he can to humanize his character, but we can only care so much about a sobbing, screaming, marching, womanizing, bi-curious, Fabio-esque underwear model in a leather skirt. The character of Alexander is presented to the audience—by Anthony Hopkins playing the historian Ptolemy—as a mythic hero, akin to the Greek legend Achilles. Sadly, Achilles is now an oiled-up Brad Pitt to many moviegoers, and Alexander the Great will become a whimpering, foppish moron to many more.

Troy and *Alexander* share contempt for their respective origins. Troy flouted Homer's epic poetry, with all its divine magic and wonder, and instead depicted the Trojan War as a factual yet romantically contrived quest for love, honour and glory. *Troy* abused *The Iliad* and, in the same vein, *Alexander* abuses the history of Alexander the Great.

Need more concrete reasons to avoid this crapfest? It's nearly three hours long and feels much longer due to awkward pacing and redundant scenes. In other words it's a lot of boring content put together in a boring way. Action junkies will find the combat scenes laughable, occasionally visceral and always pompous. The close-up battle scenes with spear-ingesting elephants were filmed so terribly, we figured they were covering up the fact that the actors were dealing with animatronic creations. However, according to literature provided by Warner Bros., well-trained real-life elephants starred. Could have fooled us.

The film's score washes over the audience like a double-fast, extra-bassy version of "You're a Grand Old Flag" or "Star-Spangled Banner" or some other equally rousing blob of patriotica. The music is stuck in post-post-post-production. Eventually, the producer and the director and the whoever-else-is-involved forgot what the movie was actually about. At this point, they hired some orchestra to play a bunch of canned epic-movie music, taking out all instrumental subtlety and innovative pacing.

The accents will blow your mind. A hodge-podge of Farrell's Irish lilt, Hopkins' British authority, Val Kilmer's American blandness, and Angelina Jolie's inexplicable Transylvanian staccato makes it difficult for even the most devoted viewer to remain comfortable throughout the many long, vapid sequences of impassioned shouting and crying. Plain language translation: the accents sucked.

Alexander is more a film about emotional turmoil and prideful ambition (think Simba in *The Lion King*) than it is about war, warriors or glory.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Colin Farrell plays the Fabio-esque Alexander.

By the end of the film, we were begging for *Troy's* glossy schlock because at least it had style. *Alexander* is boring, offensive, laden with racism, awkward, ill-designed, viscerally meagre and nearly unwatchable.

Apologies all around to the poor *Martlet* readers who attended *Alexander* in the past week. This review was meant to run on Nov. 25.

A Perfect Circle's imperfect cover album

A Perfect Circle
eMotive
Virgin Records

by Sacha Narine

Isn't that just the worst album title you've ever seen? It invokes both emo and e-mail. I like some emo, and I get lots of e-mail, but I can't buy that title.

And wait until you hear the emotive cover of John Lennon's transcendent masterpiece "Imagine." As offensive as any cover of that song is, Maynard James Keenan's rearrangement and clean, moody vocals lend the song a kind of upsetting depth that's hard to ignore.

An equally dark rehash of Nick Lowe's "Peace, Love and Understanding" fails to achieve the same poignancy. But it's listenable.

Of *eMotive*'s 12 tracks, 10 are cover songs. A frightfully dull cover of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" sneaks onto the album. Mom and Pop might like it, but some of these covers make me want to take a shower.

An original track called "Passive," co-written with Trent Reznor, echoes the catchy evilness of APC's previous hit single "Judith." This is the stuff the band's fans are begging for. Yet amidst all the covers, most of them forgettable, there's not much room for creative innovation.

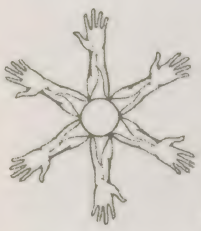
eMotive is a political album trashing the Iraq war and U.S. foreign relations.

Now I really need to take a shower.

I don't buy CDs for their lofty political insight. Most of us have access to plenty of news and information on the war. We can decide for ourselves. Maynard and friends have decided to shortchange us on music and spoon-feed listeners a murky sludge of social commentary and failed wit.

eMotive has a few great tunes buried inside that aforementioned sludge. So get digging.

Are you stressed out, in pain, or do you have trouble relaxing?



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The 'best' random crap of 2004

by *Martlet* Staff & Contributors

For your pleasure, and to massage our own swollen egos, we've compiled a "Best Of" list to tell all you uninformed goons what was great about the past year. You'll have to forgive us for omitting stuff that happened in December. We're still working on our time-travel pod.

Best Unnecessary Movie Remake
SHREK 2
On the outside, the green ogre is as hideous as snot that makes you scream after you see it on your finger, but on the inside he's a lovable, sensitive brute. Yeah, we get it: beauty's in the eye of the beholder. We didn't need a carbon copy of *Shrek*'s unimaginative fairy-tale parodies to teach us that. Everybody knows that good-looking people are assholes and that ugly people are as good as gold.

Best Movie You're Ashamed to Like
THE GIRL NEXT DOOR
Ah . . . Teenage coming-of-age movies are always about getting some, but few have ever had the gumption to delve so readily into a high school boy's ultimate fantasy. Lead geek Matthew (Emile Hirsch) actually lives next to a gorgeous porn star, Danielle (Elisha Cuthbert). It's juvenile, politically incorrect, I-just-saw-a-titty moviemaking at its best.

Best IMAX Movie to See on Weed
LIONS OF THE KALAHARI
Gazelles leap towards the audience only to be batted out of mid-air by a female lion on the hunt. Grisly, violent and educational, this giant-screen showing never stoops to Disney's lame anthropomorphic style of pseudo-documentary/nature films. No talking animals here—just fast-paced, action-filled, slow-motion chase scenes and, of course, death.

Best Use of Religion to Make Big Box-Office Bucks
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Nothing really needs to be said about this Jesuspalooza flick that hasn't already been said. Hopefully it will start a trend in the exploitation of crazy old superstitions that desperately hollow people believe in. Actually, we'd probably be okay with this movie if it didn't perpetuate anti-Semitism, had some character development and wasn't about Christ.

Best Live Show in Victoria
TIE: K-OS AT LEGENDS & GWAR AT SUGAR
The K-OS show incorporated everything from hip hop to reggae to jazz to some rock-out guitar solos. Despite the mediocre venue, everyone was either chilling, enjoying the music or dancing like crazy. This concert was all about good vibes and good music.
See page 12 for GWAR.

Best Music That Makes You Think Everything is Going to be OK
THE POSTAL SERVICE
What do you get when Jimmy Tamorello from DNTel and Ben Gibbard from Death Cab for Cutie make an album together? The stickiest, gooiest, most sonically soothing love/love-lost pop songs you've ever heard.

Best Female Objectification Masquerading as Empowerment
CATWOMAN
Halle Berry in a leather bra sounds like a good time. But watch as the atrocious *Catwoman* takes all the goodness away and just leaves time. You'll spend an hour and a half wondering how the brilliant actress who deservedly won an Oscar for *Monster's Ball* was transformed into a laughable, breast-baring "hero" who's more likely to save adolescent boys from boredom than save the world from the evil Sharon Stone. Gack.

Best Music That Makes You Think That We're All Super Fucked
GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR
Listening to the towering crescendos on any Godspeed album feels like pulling your heart out of your chest and squeezing all of the blood out of it. Godspeed reminds you of all of the injustice you see in pictures but are too self-obsessed to do anything about.

Best Drunken-Dancing Song
TOXIC BY BRITNEY SPEARS
First things first: Britney Spears isn't really the "best" anything. But "Toxic" managed to get a lot of hot young kids shakin' ass on the dance floor with little or no regard for the safety of their bumping, grinding nether-regions. That's what we like to see. We'll emend our previous statement: Britney Spears is the best talentless, ab-tacular forgettable popstar of 2004.

Best Unintentional Comedy
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
Have you seen this absurd bastardization of two great franchises? Drop a dime into your ass-crack now if you answered "No" to that question. Those who accidentally spent money on a ticket to *AvP* were treated to a complete and utter letdown, criminally banal dialogue, impotent action scenes, and a hero so boring that she even looked lame when she slid that frickin' alien head onto her arm and posed like a 10-year-old boy checking out his new Spider-Man undies in the bathroom mirror.

Best Quote to Misrepresent a Movie
KING ARTHUR
"They tortured me . . . WITH MACHINES!"

We're pretty sure *King Arthur* was about that guy with the round table and the special sword . . . Exscabular or something. Anyway, the movie was silly and that quote's even sillier.

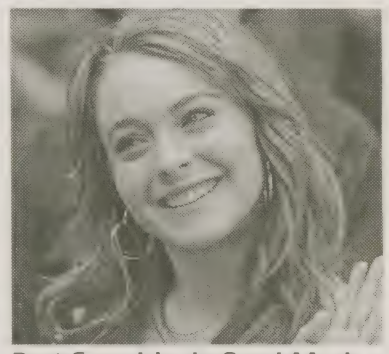
Best Comeback Album by a Former Star Trek captain
WILLIAM SHATNER'S HAS BEEN
According to *Martlet* Graphics Editor Graham Stark: "No, seriously—it's good." We'll take his word for it.

Best Song You're Ashamed to Like
"MY IMMORTAL" BY EVANESCENCE
A lot of people like this monstrous pile of weepy, emochoke nonsense, and they should be very, very ashamed. Amy Lee is not a role model, and Evanescence is not a good band. In fact, they're not really a band at all! They're just a group of musicians who take orders from an angsty Christ-rock, self-proclaimed prodigy. Fuck Amy Lee and Evanescence and "My Immortal" and everyone who shamelessly enjoys it.

Best Product Placement in a Movie
I, ROBOT (MACINTOSH COMPUTERS)
A leading movie robot designer worked many long nights ripping off the design of transparent iMacs for the movie *I, Robot*. You see, iMacs are transparent to make them seem less threatening to the average computer user. The idea was that if you could see inside the computer, it would be easier to realize that computers aren't full of demonic, living pus and glowing red eyeballs. Anyway, the robots look like frickin' iMacs. Product placement or clever pot-shot at Apple? You decide. Will Smith's huge Converse runners standing beside his hot future-Audi was pretty hot, though.

Best Corporate Tie-in in Music
JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE ("I'M LOVIN' IT")
It didn't take most of us long to realize that the little jingle we'd been hearing on TV day after day was also running in an elongated form on MuchMusic. JT cranked out a tune to advertise for Mickey Dee's and then made a music video for the same song. So when you see the music video you think of greasy, meatless burgers, and when you see the commercial you think of a pasty, meatless popstar. Synergy in advertising—the world is dying a horrible death . . .

Best Surprisingly Terrible Movie
ALEXANDER
Oh, wow. Worse movies came out this year, but none were so surprisingly bad as *Alexander*. With talent like Oliver Stone, Angelina Jolie, Christopher Plummer and Anthony Hopkins, it was hard to imagine the film being anything less than good fun. Check out our review on page 15 to see just how un-fun it really is.



Best Surprisingly Good Movie
MEAN GIRLS
Tina Fey makes most smart heterosexual men and homosexual women horny in unusual ways. After performing on and writing for Saturday Night Live for the past seven years, Tina wrote a screenplay called *Mean Girls*, which became a clever, cutting and caustic film about catty high school drama. It's funny, and most of us thought it would blow. Don't you love surprises?

Best Fashion Hell-Tsunami
FUZZY MUKLUK BOOTIES
To all the young ladies (and guys, maybe?) who've been wearing those furry mukluk boots: stop it! For God's sake, don't you have any sense of not-looking-like-a-dumpy-kangaroo? Most people only have to devote a few seconds of mental power each day to not-looking-like-dumpy-kangaroo, but you seem to have used up those few seconds thinking about your fake-n-bake tan or trying to open a bag of mini rice cakes. Get some Pumas. Word has it they're rather fresh.

Best Bunny
BUNNY WITH AN ARROW THROUGH ITS EARS
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SPORTS BRIEFS

Swimmers looking strong

It was a small but strong team that represented the Vikes this past weekend at the Canadian Open Swimming Championships.

Jesse Jacks, returning this season after injuries kept him out much of last year, won a gold in the 200-metre butterfly and placed fifth in the 100 fly.

Rookie Mackenzie Downing won a silver medal in the women's 200 fly and was fourth in the 100 fly.

Another rookie, Greer Jacks, finisehd with two personal bests, placing 11th in the 400 freestyle and eighth in the 800 freestyle.

Vikes alumnus Christin Petelski had strong swims in the breaststrokes, placing fourth in the 200 and sixth in the 100.

Swimmers from abroad

Kerley Stutzel placed eighth in the 2004 World Open Water Swimming Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates this past weekend. This qualifies her for the Canadian team at the 2005 World Aquatic Championship next summer in Montreal.

Also qualifying from her 10-kilometre race was Tanya Hunks, who finished 12th.

Vikes women tumble vs. SFU

The Vikes women's basketball team lost two consecutive games versus the Simon Fraser University Clan this past weekend.

In their first game on Friday, after being kept to only nine points in the first half, the Vikes were unable to make a comeback, ultimately losing 69–37.

Though the Vikes fared a little better in their second game, once again they could not pull it together, losing 69–55.

Jody Potts and Jania Mynott continue to lead the way for the Vikes.

UVic falls to 4–4 for the season. SFU continues to dominate CIS basketball, losing their only games to the U. of Texas in the NCAA.

The women play again in a tournament at Concordia University on Dec. 29.

Men steal two vs. SFU

The Vikes men's basketball team was in top form this past weekend as they took on the Simon Fraser University Clan. They won two consecutive games against SFU, to finish the first half of the season leading the Pacific-Division 6–2.

In their first game on Friday, the Vikes took the lead going into the second half 33–28. They were able to keep the momentum in the second to win the game 73–65.

In their second game on Saturday, the Vikes came from behind to beat SFU 89–71. Going into the second half, the Clan were up 38–36. But UVic came out strong in the half, and led by Tyler Hass and Chris Trumpy, the Vikes were able to pull way ahead to win their sixth game of the season.

The men play again at a Christmas tournament in Langley, B.C., on Dec. 27 and 28.

—compiled by M.B

Vikes defender nabs two awards

Ali Lee cleans up with CanWest and CIS rookie of the year awards. Next stop, Chile

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Ali Lee is decidedly modest about winning a Canadian Interuniversity Sports rookie of the year award last month.

"It's not too big of a deal," the women's field hockey player told *the Martlet*. After all, she was also named Canada West rookie of the year two weeks earlier. "I tried not to think of [the Canada West award] before going to the nationals. I didn't want to have too much pressure on me."

The Vikes earned silver at the CIS field hockey championship in Edmonton on Nov. 7, losing the final match of the tournament to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds 3–0.

The 17-year-old defender is one of the reasons the team did so well this season, said coach Lynne Beecroft.

"We had seven rookies this year, and Ali had to play right from the get go," said Beecroft. "She performed in any position I asked her to—Ali stepped right into her role, wherever it was."

Lee first tried field hockey when she was about 11 in a local league. "My mom had played, and she wanted to get me into [the sport]. She was like, 'Try one season of field hockey and you'll like it,'" said Lee. "I did, and I stuck with it."

Even after spending time with the U-16 program and the U-18 provincial team, the move to the university level was quite a big jump, but one that she was comfortable making.

"I knew a lot of girls on the Vikes . . . and I've looked up to them a lot," said Lee. "I never thought I'd be playing with them—I was always two years younger but sometimes played up and would think, 'Wow. Now I'm playing with them."

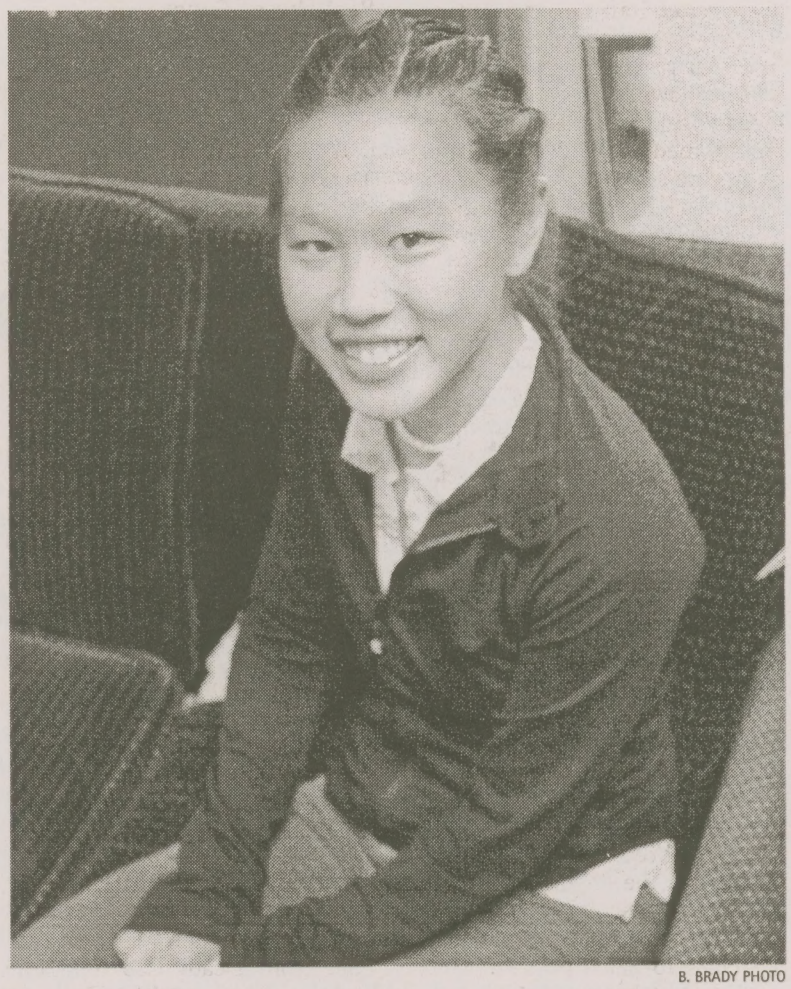
Lee says balancing schoolwork with hockey is no easy feat, especially when you're a microbiology and biochemistry student. "I'm not used to having no time to study. Playing field hockey is like having a job. I'd spend every day after school playing, get home and be too tired to study," she said.

She also coaches younger athletes, umpires, and runs websites for local junior and women's leagues.

Still, the demands of the sport and school don't seem to faze her. "You should do what you can with the time you're given," said Lee. "I just try my best."

Even though the national championship is over, Lee won't be stopping anytime soon. Just after the CIS tournament, she was named to the junior national under-21 team, which will be going to Chile this month for the Four Nations Tournament.

"It's a little overwhelming," said Lee.



B. BRADY PHOTO

First-year student Ali Lee will be playing in Chile later this month.

"A lot of the girls are a lot older."

"I'm definitely very nervous, but I figure I have nothing to lose. I might as well just play hard and see what I can do," she said. "The coaches obviously saw something in me at the nationals, so hopefully that's a good sign."

Beecroft agrees. "To be able to perform in this league—in first year—is certainly difficult. Kudos to her for being able to do that."

UVic swimmers honoured at banquet

by *Martlet* Staff

Many Vikes were honoured this year at the 2004 Canadian Swimming Awards Banquet, hosted by Swimming Canada and the Canadian Swim Coaches and Teachers Association.

Victoria native Karley Stutzel was named Canadian Open Swimmer of the Year for the third time.

UVic Pacific Coast Swimming Association's director of swimming and Vikes assistant coach Ron Jacks was awarded Canadian Open Water Coach of the Year. Jacks coaches Stutzel and David, both of whom are still in the United Arab Emirates.

Jacks also won for his work with reigning UVic Athlete of the Year, Stephanie Dixon. Dixon won eight medals at this past summer's Paralympic Games. For his work, Jacks was honoured with the Petro Canada Coaching Excellence Award and the Speedo Domestic Excellence Award for coaching a reigning national champion. UVic assistant coach Rod Barrat was also honoured with the Speedo Award.

UVPCSA swimmer Nathan O'Brien was named the 2004 Canadian Male Backstroke Swimmer of the Year for his near Canadian record swim in the 200 backstroke at the 2004 Canadian Olympic Trials this past summer.

The 2004 Canadian Swimming Awards Banquet took place after day one of the 2004 Canadian Open in Calgary. UVic put in a strong performance over the weekend, with many top place finishes.

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Storybook ending for Vikes soccer team

by Melissa Nelson

Sean Battistoni hasn't been able to wipe the smile off his face for a few weeks now—not since the Vikes midfielder helped defeat the McGill Redmen 3–1 at the Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) men's soccer championship in Montreal, making UVic the number one team in Canada for the first time since 1996.

The Vikes headed to the finals after being crowned Canada West champs in Calgary during the first weekend in November. In addition to scoring a crucial tie-breaker in the 76th minute of the final game, Battistoni, the Vikes co-captain, was voted Tournament MVP and Adidas player of the game. From the sound of it, he's going to be floating a few inches off the ground for a while.

"It's like a storybook ending," the 23-year old midfielder says with a grin. "You dream about all these things, and then they all happen in one game and you get to share it with your buddies."

Fellow midfielder Will Moore, 24, echoes Battistoni, saying, "It's a pretty ecstatic feeling."

Both Battistoni and Moore hail from Victoria. In fact, they grew up a couple blocks from one another. Each has played soccer for over a decade and a half. As kids, they played on opposing teams. Since high school, they've played together, first for Oak Bay High and then for UVic.

The CIS Championship was Battistoni's last hurrah as a Vike. He finished a history degree last spring but returned to take more courses this fall so he could keep playing soccer. He's clearly glad to have made that decision.

MONTREAL GAZETTE/MARY-FRANCE COALLIER PHOTO

Vikes men taste victory for the first time in eight years.

Asked what's next, he grins again and says he's taking a break to travel until the thrill wears off.

"Soccer's taken up most of our lives for the last five years," says Battistoni. While he'll never tire of playing, he's tired of the juggling act of carrying a full course-load, practising every day and travelling to and from games. Moore estimates that players lose at least 25 hours a week of would-be study time due to the demands of their soccer schedule.

Once Battistoni's gone and had some fun in some yet-to-be-determined destination, he says he would like to keep playing, though he's not sure where—yet.

"I'd love to carry it on," he says but adds it might be a challenge. "There's very few options for guys coming out of university. The quality of the university league is very good."

"It would be incredible to be paid to play soccer," he says. "But it's kind of out of my hands."

Moore, a history and English student, has one more year with the Vikes, so he's going to be an important part of the 2005–06 team. But with this past year being the final one for 11 of his teammates, he says it'll be a different year, though a fresh start with some good young players coming in.

"We're certainly looking forward to him coming back to lead a young team next year," says coach Bruce Wilson.

Like Moore, Wilson is optimistic about the transition. Though it may feel like starting over to lose so many seasoned players at once, Wilson has several younger players who haven't had the chance to play much yet, and he's looking for more. Mostly, he's happy that this year's senior team members were able to finish their CIS careers with a national win under their belts.

"Everybody's still pretty high on our win. They're pretty happy," Wilson says. "For me, recruiting new players, it certainly won't hurt."

The Vikes are currently taking a break to rejuvenate and recover from injuries before they start up again in January. Moore suffered a deep bone bruise to his Achilles tendon during the finals and had to resort to cutting his boot in order to alleviate pressure on the injury and keep playing.

Injured or not, it doesn't seem like anything could get these guys down right now. In keeping with Battistoni, Moore sums it up in storybook fashion.

"It's actually something that I'll think about for the rest of my life," he says. "The times we had together, the tough times and the good times, that we can look back on as a group and say we did together."

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Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Food Animals are looking for members to take an active part in their organization. Our mission is "a stress free life and a humane death for food animals." Contact L. Dymond at 388-5165 or littlerockstables@shaw.ca

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Victoria Jung Society Lecture. Catherine Ellis *Anima and Animus*. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3, 2004, David Strong Bldg. C116. $10 members, $15 non-members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live it for one day. Can you? WUSC UVic is holding a Refugee Camp Simulation on Jan. 6 and 7 in front of the library. Join us for an education and awareness event to learn about the issues that effect the world's 17.1 million refugees. More info. from wuscuvic@hotmail.com

Attention Graduating Students: The Grad Class Executive needs your input for the Legacy Project! Email your submissions to legacy@fun-play-net

Renowned Buddhist master Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche from Bhutan, will offer empowerments and teachings in Victoria Dec. 10-19. Dec. 10-12 includes Death and Dying, Guru Padma Sambhava & Green Tara Empowerments. Parts 1-5 of Dzog-chen: Realizing our Ultimate Nature will be taught Dec. 17-19. For details visit yeshekhorlo.ca or contact (250) 658-0357, damchos@shaw.ca

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Kati, get ready for the second coming.

Stop Shhhing me! Butch haircuts are cool. What's this about soft split?

Poogina-rama!! Fuck the man! You are the BEST MOM, I know and we are all on your side. Keep fighting the good fight...we need you, girl. Poogina survivors unite!

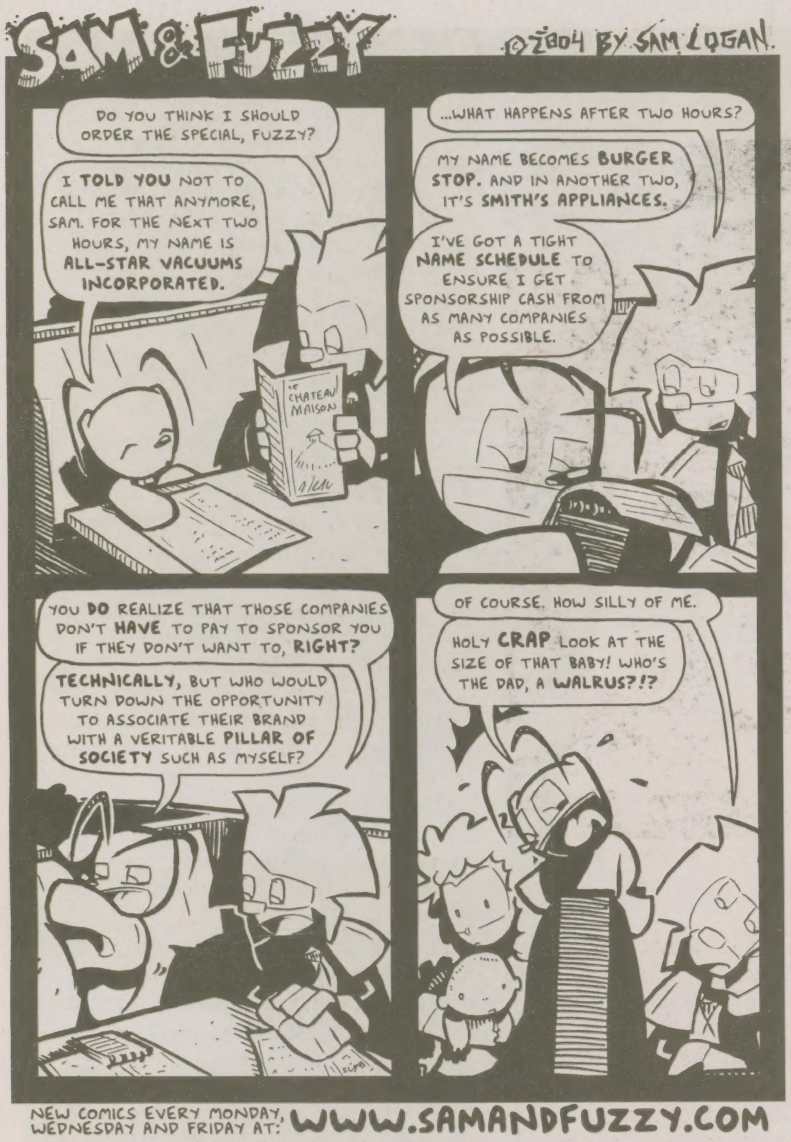
Doctor, Doctor! Jean "Bobby," we are ALL humbled and just a little more confused (enlightened). "Sexuality Fridays" will never be the same.

Hey, you object-huntin', email-spammin' mike myers lover from the odd world... sorry I've ruined your life. next time you flirt with the zamboni driver, you might want to think twice before you tell me. say it, you'll go to the NC, promise I won't drive you crazy for 14 hours. we still love you! (ehm... as long as you don't forget to burn me your pics) toodles.

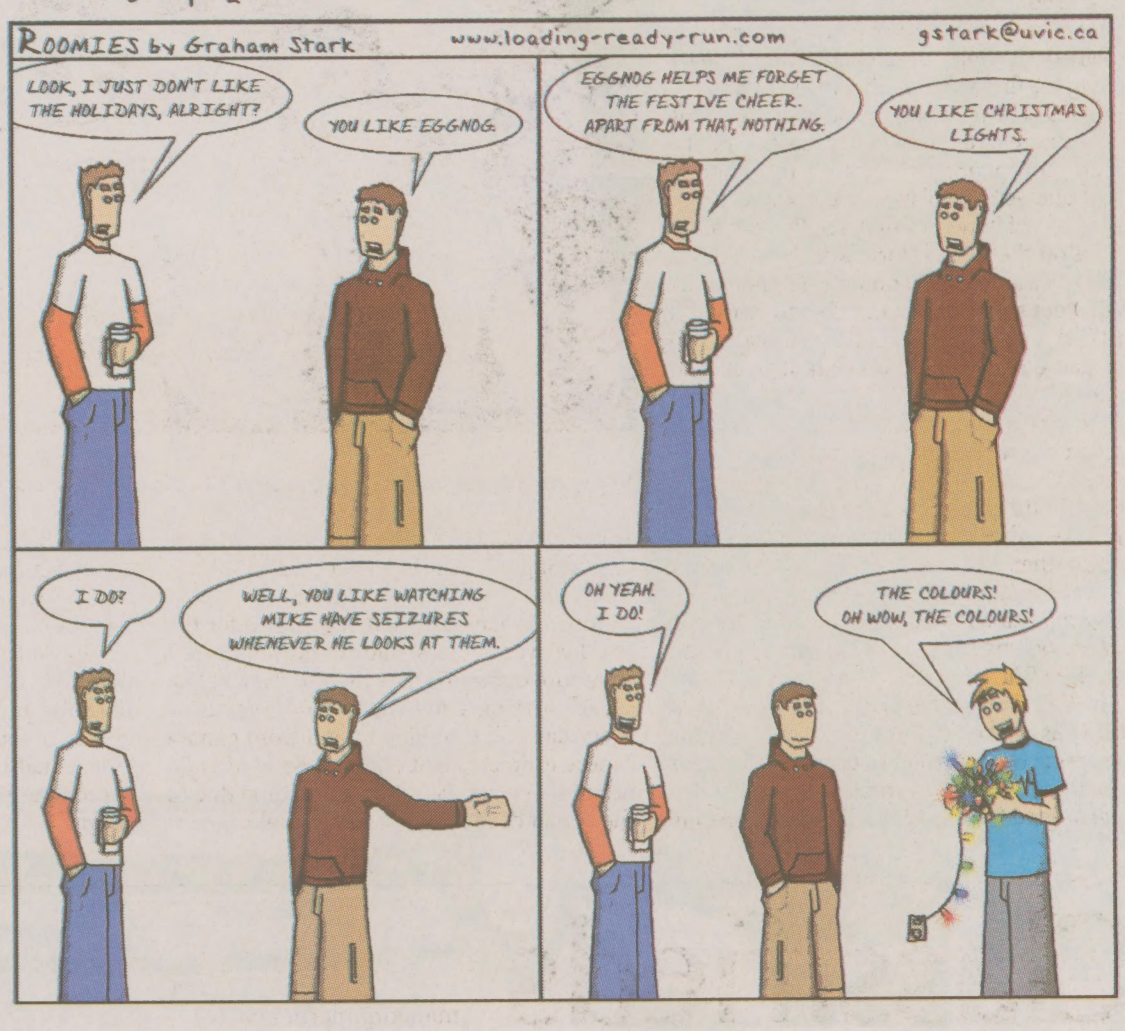
Even if it is muddy, we appreciate the effort. Thank you, Small Boy and Monkey.

CLASSIFIED RATES

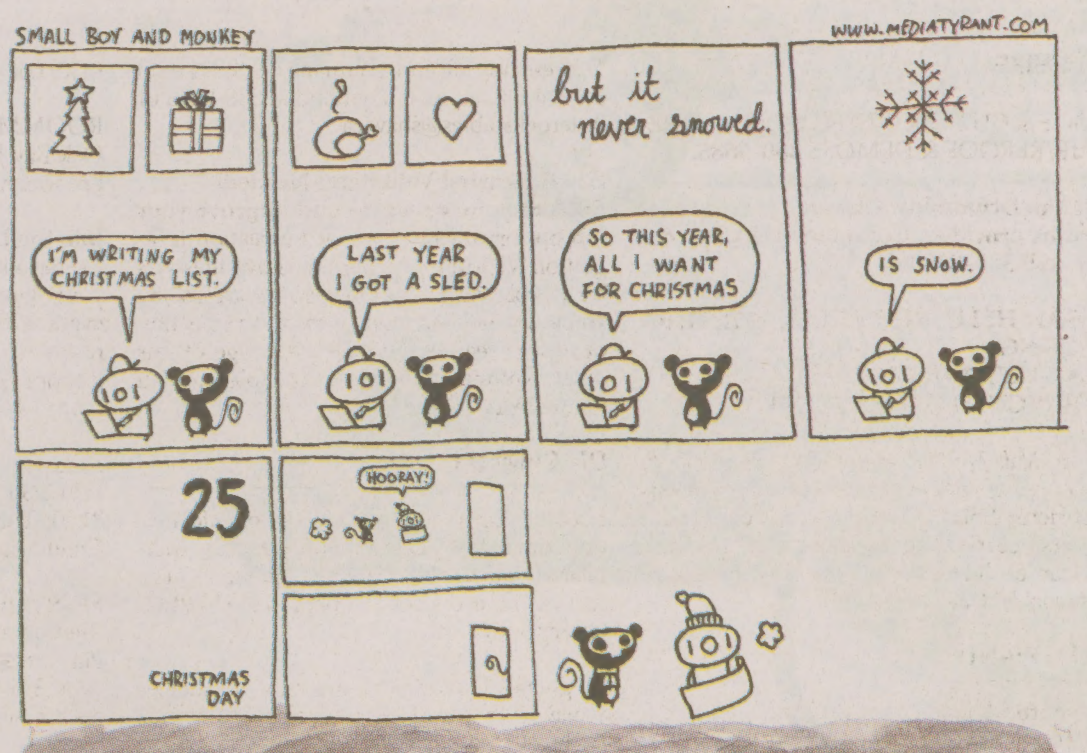
Students and clubs | $2/issue
Non-students | $2/line
Businesses | $6/line
Hey you! | free

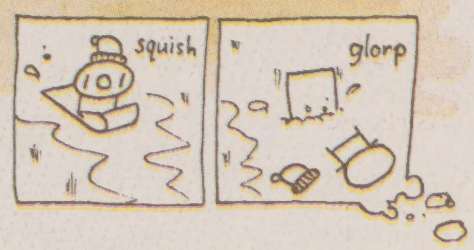

SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN.
DO YOU THINK I SHOULD ORDER THE SPECIAL, FUZZY?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT ANYMORE, SAM. FOR THE NEXT TWO HOURS, MY NAME IS ALL-STAR VACUUMS INCORPORATED.
LE CHATEAU MAISON
...WHAT HAPPENS AFTER TWO HOURS?
MY NAME BECOMES BURGER STOP. AND IN ANOTHER TWO, IT'S SMITH'S APPLIANCES.
I'VE GOT A TIGHT NAME SCHEDULE TO ENSURE I GET SPONSORSHIP CASH FROM AS MANY COMPANIES AS POSSIBLE.
YOU DO REALIZE THAT THOSE COMPANIES DON'T HAVE TO PAY TO SPONSOR YOU IF THEY DON'T WANT TO, RIGHT?
TECHNICALLY, BUT WHO WOULD TURN DOWN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSOCIATE THEIR BRAND WITH A VERITABLE PILLAR OF SOCIETY SUCH AS MYSELF?
OF COURSE. HOW SILLY OF ME.
HOLY CRAP LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT BABY! WHO'S THE DAD, A WALRUS?!?

NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: **WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM**


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
LOOK, I JUST DON'T LIKE THE HOLIDAYS, ALRIGHT?
YOU LIKE EGGNOG.
EGGNOG HELPS ME FORGET THE FESTIVE CHEER. APART FROM THAT, NOTHING.
YOU LIKE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.
I DO?
WELL, YOU LIKE WATCHING MIKE HAVE SEIZURES WHENEVER HE LOOKS AT THEM.
OH YEAH. I DO!
THE COLOURS! OH WOW, THE COLOURS!

Colours
DUDE- I UM- MERRY CHRISTMAS DUDE...
I AM HUMBLED BY YOUR GRACIOUS GESTURE OF SELFLESSNESS, BUT
I MUST REFUSE. FOR I CELEBRATE A FAR MORE NOBLE DAY... BUT...FOR YOU, MY POOR IGNORANT BFF! I WILL UNFOLD...
THE STORY OF KELPMAS.
ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 24th ALL OF THE DEVELOPING KELPLINGS GATHER THEMSELVES AROUND THE CONE SHAPED ROCK OF KELPMAS...
THEN, WHEN ALL THE LITTLE KELPLINGS HAVE GONE INTO A RECESSIVE STATE...
ZZZZZZ
FATHER KELPMAS ~ THE WORST AND MOST KIND OF ALL SURFACE DWELLING SEAWEED ~ DRIFTS AROUND, SECRETING NUTRIENTS TO ALL THE LITTLE KELPLINGS AROUND THE WORLD.
KELP! THAT IS THE MOST RIDICULOUS REPLICA OF CHRISTMAS I HAVE EVER HEARD! HONESTLY ~ WHO IS GOING TO BELIEVE IN A FLOATING CLONE OF SANTA CLAUSE! DUDE! C'MON!!
...RIGHT BEHIND ME, EH?
MERRY KELPMAS DUDE.
UG





To Christmas wishes granted,
To Christmas wishes not,
To Christmas! Cheers!
And thanks, sincere,
For all the love I've got.

hetta Riston
Brasseri
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DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. CALL 1-888-TAXIGUY.
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